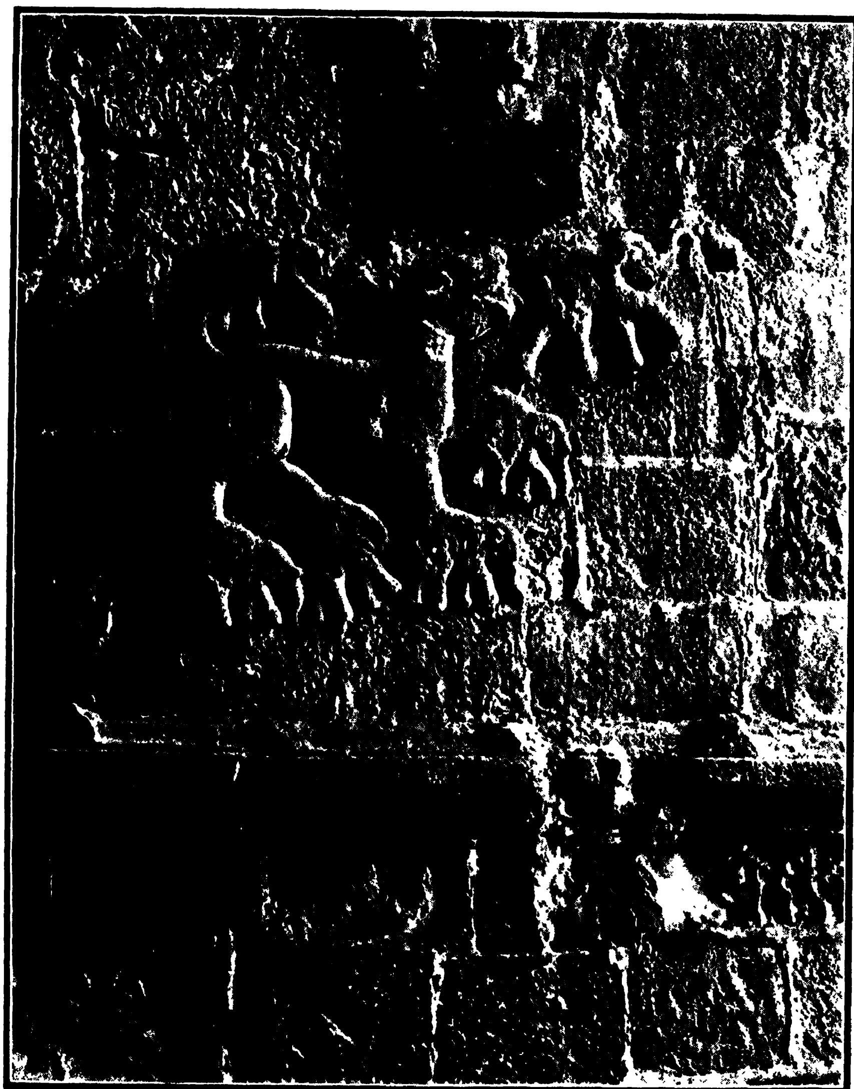
BOMBAY AND THE SIDIS



HERALDIC DEVICE AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE FORT OF DANDA-RAJPURI

BOMBAY AND THE SIDIS

BY

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WITH A FOREWORD

BY

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TO

HER WHO INSPIRED IT

FOREWORD

Mr. D. R. Banaji has paid me the compliment of asking me to write a foreword to his scholarly thesis on *Bombay and the Sidis*, which earned him a richly-deserved first class in the M. A. Examination. The subject is one of quite unusual interest, for the Sidis played an important part in the history of the city of Bombay in the latter part of the 17th century, and were, indeed, the only people who have ever seriously threatened it. It is curious to think that, as late as 1680, they could land in Mazgaon, and, behaving "with the insolence characteristic of the Moors in the Moghul's service", sell captives as slaves in the open market and mount on poles the heads of the Marathas they had captured in a raid on Kanheri! I am glad to see that Mr. Banaji pays due tribute to the memory of his gallant countryman, Rustom Dorabji, who, though a mere boy of twenty, organized a force of Kolis, and attacked the invaders with such success that the Company made him Patel of Bombay. The root-cause of the trouble was, of course, the fact that the East India Company was too mean to spend money upon proper fortifications. The wonder is that the city was not attacked more often. The history of Bombay is a fascinating one, and much of it remains even now very imperfectly investigated. Mr. Banaji has made extensive use of the valuable unpublished material in the Bombay Record Office, and it is to be hoped that his example will be followed by other workers in the same field. His work is fully documented, and is an original contribution to the subject of the highest value.

H. G. Rawlinson.

PREFACE

The author does not claim to add a new chapter to the annals of British History in India, but he is confident that his studies may throw new and unexpected sidelights on the early transactions of the East India Company in Bombay.

The few books extant, dealing with this subject, were not written on historical lines, inasmuch as they totally ignored the valuable records of the Bombay Government. These records constitute a rich mine of information, and the author gladly profits by this occasion to express his gratitude for the readiness and kindness with which the Director of Information granted permission to study the official documents.

This permission was all the more appreciated because Janjira State itself had no records to help him in his study. In reply to his request the Dewan wrote : "I am sorry to say there is nothing in our Archives to help you to find materials in connection with your thesis." Later on a visit to Janjira strikingly bore out the Dewan's words. In fact, all the ancient documents kept in the Palace of the Sidis perished when this was burnt in the second half of the last century.

The author spent nine months in the Bombay Government Record Office and went through the tedious task of examining about six hundred books.

Besides these, he has consulted a number of other books, amongst which may be mentioned as the more important the works of Grant Duff, Orme, Foster, Forrest, Anderson, Bruce and Alexander Hamilton. He has obtained access to them after resorting to various well-known libraries, such as the Royal Asiatic, the Secretariat and the Library of the Indian Research Historical Institute. However, the main source of information on which he has relied in developing his thesis are the unpublished documents. The published sources have been used to clear up here and there some doubtful questions, only vaguely mentioned in the unpublished documents.

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ERRATA

p. 11, note[2], l. 3.	*Should be* Sir J. Sarkar.
p. 25, note[2], l. 3.	*History of Hindostan*, Vol. I, p. 78 not *New Account of the East Indies*, p. 78.
p. 26, note[1].	*Should read* Ba Sad haif (Persian)—with a thousand pities; Alas!
p. 38, l. 3 from foot.	*For* Egbert *read* Akbar.
p. 44, l. 12 from foot.	*Should be* Captain Hamilton.
p. 48, l. 10 and 4 from foot.	*For* Etmatt *read* Itmad.
p. 48, l. 3 from foot.	*For* Meer Nezame *read* Mir Nizam.
p. 50, l. 16.	"Goosbadar": Gurzbardar (Persian)—mace-bearer; messenger.
	For Brahaman *read throughout* Brahman.
	For Kenary *read throughout* Kenery.

INTRODUCTION

Janjira is the Marathi corruption of the Arabic 'Jazirah', meaning 'an island'. Though the whole country is generally called Janjira, yet the name truly refers to the island fortress, namely the Fort of Danda-Rajpuri. It lies between 17°59′ and 18°32′ north latitude and 72° 57′ and 73° 21′ east longitude.

Janjira, also called Habsan, is a small state to the south of Bombay, about 26 miles away from it. It is situated between the Kolaba and the Ratnagiri Districts, and the surface is covered with hill ranges running parallel to the arms of the sea that penetrate eastward into the interior. Near the mouths of the creeks, belts of palm-groves fringe the shore and present a charming view.

Its area is about 324 square miles, and the population, according to the present census, is about 87,000 (76,300 in 1881). Amongst the castes that inhabit this state, there are Kayasth Prabhus, Gujarat and Marwar Vanis, Kunbis, Agris, Bhandaris, Marathas, Malis, Jangaris, Guravas, Gavlis, Dhangars, Kolis, Kharvis, Chambhars, Mhars, Mangs, Buruds, Vanjaris, Beldars (religious beggars), Kanphate Nath Gosavis, Gonshalis, Dakujis, Bairagis, Gopals, Kathkaris and lastly Mussalmans. Of the resident population 80 per cent. are Hindus and 20 per cent. Mahomedans.

Among the Mahomedans of Janjira there is a small group of interesting individuals. It consists of the famous Sidis, whose name will often occur in the following pages. According to the census of 1881 their number amounted only to 258, and there is no likelihood that it has considerably increased during the last fifty years. The word 'Sidi' is a term of respect, a corrupt form of Syed, which according to some authorities means 'priest'. But this explanation is contested by many for the simple reason that 'Sidis' became the name of the Abyssinians, men who were notorious for their lack of priestly qualities.

Why and when did these Sidis come to India?—In ancient times much trade was carried on between India and Africa. In those days ships loaded with cargo used to ply between Bengal and the Western Coast of India and Egypt. This cargo was taken to Alexandria, Samarkand and through-

out the whole of Europe. Therefore, from early times some countries in Europe thought of carrying on trade with India. Among these were the Genoese, the Venetians and the Aragonese. But they soon found out that the way across the sea was not safe and hence they ceased for a time to trade with India.

The only people who traded with India in the 14th century were the Mahomedans of southern Iran and Arbastan. Now the country of the Abyssinians or the Habshis was not far from Arabia; and in course of time the Sidis also started to trade with India. So, one point is quite clear, and that is that the Habshis or the Sidis came to India only for the purposes of trade.[1]

However, the Sidis were not destined to achieve great fame in the line of trade. There were too many competitors in the field, and those competitors, though they may have been less able seamen than the Sidis, had greater resources at their disposal. Accordingly the Sidis were disappointed in their expectations. They then enlisted in the military service of the Brahmani (Bahamani) Kingdom in the Deccan.

This seems to be the true explanation of the way in which the Sidis came to India. There is also a legendary account, which is worthwhile mentioning. According to this legend the Sidis entered Janjira much like the Greeks entered the doomed city of Troy. The Sidis, however, did not build a huge wooden horse; they proceeded in the following manner: About the year A. D. 1489 an Abyssinian, disguised as a merchant, obtained permission from the Chiefs of the Island to land 300 boxes, supposed to contain valuable wares. But in reality every one of these boxes contained a soldier, and by this ingenious trick the Abyssinians possessed themselves of Janjira Island and Fort.

After they had settled in Janjira, they soon began to prosper in a wondrous manner; and within a comparatively short time their influence was much greater than their numbers warranted. Their success was the result of their bravery; for the Sidis proved themselves able seamen and reliable fighting-men. Their prowess on sea resulted in the appointment of Sidi Captains as admirals of the Moghul fleet. Their skill in military affairs is evidenced by the fame of their leaders, men like Malik Ambar,[2]

[1] Bhonsle, जंजिराचा इतिहास.

[2] *Ferishta-Briggs*, III, p. 319 and passim.

Malik Yakub[1] and Malik Kafur,[2] names well known in Indian history.

Among these three generals Malik Ambar deserves special mention, because on one occasion he crossed swords with the English at a time when the latter were already powerful. In 1621 Malik Ambar made bold to attack a British Caravan;[3] and his attack was successful for he inflicted on the English a loss which amounted to "210,000 ruppies, but the losse growing thereby would be six leques ruppies".[4] Of course, the English were anxious to secure redress for this injury, and Robert Jeffries was sent to Daulatabad by the Surat authorities to discuss matters with the Sidi general.

But Malik Ambar was not inclined to return the booty he had taken. It would seem that by way of retaliation the English had seized one of Malik Ambar's ships. Accordingly, when the British envoy pressed the Sidi to make restitution, the latter was satisfied with asking: "if the English be men of conscience to come to him for monie and yett robb his shipp?"[5] The result was that the English did not receive the compensation hoped for; on the contrary their capture of Malik Ambar's ship was to cause them considerable trouble in their relations with the Sidis of Janjira, as will be shown later on.

This brief introductory note may help us to gain that initial knowledge about the origin and the character of the Sidis, without which it would be difficult to enter on a study of the relations between the Sidis of Janjira and the British of Bombay.

[1] *The Indian Antiquary* (1924), p. 36n and passim.
[2] *Ferishta-Briggs,* I, p. 365 and passim.
[3] *English Factories,* 1655-60, p. 208.
[4] Abstract of letters from R. Jeffries, October-November, 1621, *English Factories,* 1618-21, p. 316.
[5] Abstract of letters, *English Factories,* 1618-21, p. 317.

CHAPTER I

EARLY BRITISH ATTEMPTS TO CAPTURE JANJIRA

(1628-1661)

The British trade in the Arabian Ocean in the first half of the 17th Century required a stronghold which would be a convenient vantage-ground to meet the attacks of the daily-increasing enemies of the Company, and which at the same time would afford a secure shelter for the Company's ships to take refuge in. Such a stronghold was soon found at Janjira. In order to explore the Western Coast, two cruisers, the *Hopewell* and the *Mary*, commanded respectively by Ibrahim (Abraham) Sayers and Captain John Hall, had set sail from Swalley and visited several harbours in 1628. On the 8th February they arrived at "Donderogerpore" (Danda-Rajpuri).[1] "For the knowledge of it you shall have an iland with a Castle upon it," wrote Abraham Sayers; "you shall have a rock on your starbord side as you stere in, for the towne lies a myle from the maine."[2] Captain Hall gives some more information in his letter. After stating that the harbour was very good and the place strong, he informs the President and Council at Surat that there was a sort of dissension at Danda, which they hoped to turn profitably to account in the attainment of their object—namely, to have the Castle surrendered to them. The cause of this dissension seems to have been the appointment of a new Governor of Danda by the Sidi "Mellic-Amber" (Mallik Ambar) then apparently far from Janjira.[3] The old Governor did not accept the new appointment, and hastened to the Castle in rebellion. "Wee hope hee would have come aboard our shipps for succour," says Captain Hall, "but sending Mr. Priddis and Mr. Blackden ashore, wee saw and perceaved hee had noe such intent." When this hope was frustrated, the British

[1] Captain Hall in his letter of February 21st says that they anchored in the port of Danda on the 6th of February about 6 o'clock in the evening; but we prefer the day given by Ibrahim Sayers in his apparently everyday Diary.

[2] Ibrahim Sayers' Account, *English Factories*, 1624-9, p. 219.

[3] Mallik Ambar was then most likely in the Kingdom of Ahmednagar. cf. *Ferishta-Briggs*, *III*, p. 320.

ships left the harbour of Danda on their way to Bombay.[1] This fact, according to Sayers' account, took place on February 11th.

But this failure did not make the English give up all hopes of securing this coveted place for themselves. For it is probable that, besides the strategic topography of Danda, there was another factor which went a long way to confirm the British traders in their desire to settle there, and that was the character and occupation of the people of Janjira. However, it may be this factor came in handy later on to furnish them with an excuse and a justification for their attempts to acquire a place on which they had begun to cast covetous eyes. Thirty-two years later President Andrews writing to the Company points out this additional reason to give colour to their enterprise: "Those that inhabitt Danda-Rajapore," he writes, "are pyrates and rogues, and maintaine vessells abroad to robb all that they master; and it is but justice to roote out such rogues."[2] Another remark is made to the same effect in a letter of the Council, dated the 22nd June, 1660. "If wee cannot fairly obtaine it, wee may forcibly by our shipping, and that lawfully considering them as pirats."[3]

A month after the first expedition, that is on the 12th March, 1628, the British fleet once more set sail for Danda-Rajpuri, and anchored off Danda on the 15th. "Seidiambar" (Sidi Ambar), the Captain of the Castle, sent them a complimentary letter with a present. At night on the same day there arrived a boat which brought them a present from "Abiscan" (Habshi Khan), the new Governor of Janjira, who was besieging the Castle on behalf of the King of Ahmednagar. Both Sidi Ambar and Habshi Khan pretended to be very hospitable to the English, who in return decided to send Sidi Ambar a present on the next day, to see "if we could upon composition draw him to surrender up the Castle unto us". Accordingly, they sent Signor Jeronimo, Captain Altham and Mr. Latch with a chest of rose-water and four sword-blades to Sidi Ambar, by whom they were very courteously received. But neither the temptation of great rewards nor any other inducement could persuade the Governor to deliver up the Castle. "By noe means he would

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[1] Captain John Hall to the President and Council, Swalley, 21st February, 1628, *English Factories*, 1624-9, p. 243.

[2] From President Andrews to the Company, 10th January, 1660, *English Factories*, 1655-60, p. 24.

[3] From the Council, 22nd June, 1660, *English Factories*, 1655-60, p. 331.

not be seduced to deliver up the Castle," says Mr. Predys. However, as a sort of consolation, he promised the disappointed English that if they would return there the next year, he would obtain for them a Firman from the King of the Deccan, which would enable them to trade in these parts and to fortify themselves against the attacks of any other enemy. But the English were well aware of the empty character of his promises, and of the apprehensions which made him give them. "I conceive," wrote Mr. Richard Predys, "what he spoke was rather to give us content then otherwise, fearing we should have joyned against him with Abiscan (Habshi Khan) for he keeping the Castle against the King, it is very unlike he will be able to doe for us anything he promised."

In spite of this failure they were determined not to lose the opportunity; but they had to face extraordinary difficulties; for they had neither the time nor the men needed to take such a strong place. However, the seamen were resolved to make the attempt in the hope that with luck on their side they might succeed in taking the fortress by storm. But this idea was given up on their hearing an account of the fortifications related by the "two land-soldiers"[1] who were on shore with them. As there was no other alternative left, "the boats sounded all round the castle and between it and the main". Although on all previous occasions Sidi Ambar had allowed them to sound even closer to the citadel than they were now doing, they were not allowed to do so this time. What guided Sidi Ambar to act thus, we are not in a position to say. At last the English fleet left Danda-Rajpuri for Dabull on the 17th March, 1628.[2]

Thus the negotiations entered upon by the English ended in failure. Nevertheless, the President of the English Factory

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[1] The account given by the "two land-soldiers" of the Castle to Mr. Richard Predys was most likely afterwards inserted in the latter's letter and runs as follows:

"The Castle of Danda is scituated in the sea upon a little hommock, distant from the shoare a little more than a muskett shot; by nature very strong; wherein are at least 400 men, six great pieces of ordinance, and some 16 or 18 falconet and ravenet, envyroned with a wall, of 18 or 10 foote towards the land and some 14 foote towards the sea, round about, with battlements and half moones; and upon the top and middle of it a great house, and by it a block house from whence three pieces of ordinance shott over to the S. side unto two Mallabarr friggitts which were coming into the baye."—Richard Predys' Account, *English Factories*, 1624-9, pp. 252-253.

[2] Richard Predys' Account, *English Factories*, 1624-9, p. 253. cf. two other short accounts of the same visit, *Ibid.*, pp. 262-3.

at Surat had not given up all hopes of finally capturing the coveted place. In fact, towards the end of 1639, President Fremlen ordered William Pitt, the Commander of the *Discovery,* to visit "Danda-Radgepory" (Danda-Rajpuri). He could easily do so, for there was also an outstanding invitation of the Governor of Danda to the British. Once more the expectations of the Company were not fulfilled, "rather through Pitt's fault than otherwise". Yet the President was in no way discouraged; he founded new hopes upon Aurangzeb's war in the Deccan, and the old enmity between the Sidis and the Moghuls.

Meanwhile, the English were well informed about the place. Fremlen seems to have studied much its topographical conveniences, and whilst writing to the Company he does not hesitate to state the following: "if by any meanes wee could acquire that place (then which none alongst on this coast is more usefull to your occasions, Bombai excepted) many and important conveniences would accrew to your trade...... Such a fort would bee worth your owning and worthy the charges you should expend thereon. All possible faire meanes shall be practized to make it yours, since force is nothing awaylaeable to subject it to your command."[1]

Then there is a break extending over seventeen years in the records of the relations between Janjira and the British of Bombay. But when the thread of the narrative is resumed, we learn that others besides the English were anxious to gain possession of the Castle-rock. In the year 1657, Aurangzeb, the Moghul Emperor, several times approached the English with the request to render him assistance in capturing the Castle of Danda-Rajpuri. This request on the part of Aurangzeb must have made the English smile; for if they had been in a position to render valuable assistance to the Moghuls, they would long ago have acted in the matter by themselves and for themselves.[2]

The more anxious the English were to secure a stronghold on the Western Coast of India, the greater became the difficulties they had to overcome. In a letter dated the 9th April, 1658, President Wyche received instructions from his employers which plainly hinted that it was desirable to acquire any stronghold on the Western Coast of India. Since the taking of the Castle of

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[1] From President Fremlen to the Company, 28th January, 1640, *English Factories,* 1638-41, p. 28.

[2] From Revington to the Company, 5th November, 1658, *English Factories,* 1655-60, pp. 121-2.

Danda-Rajpuri was not an easy task in itself, President Wyche was directed to act as follows : "Wee do hereby give you power to treate for the obteyning of the said port of Danda-Rajpuri, Basseene (Bassein), Bombay, or such other healthfull place upon the coast of Mallabar as you shall upon certaine knowledge or information know to be fitt for securing of our shipping." Hence, besides Danda-Rajpuri, there were several other places towards which the attention of the English was directed for the purpose of gaining a firm footing on the Malabar Coast. But at the same time several practical considerations were suggested to guide them to make a good choice. The place was not only to be suitable for the sheltering of the English ships ; but also one "that hath a good inlett into the countrie and trade, and such other conveniences and accomodations as are necessarie for a settlement".

Besides this, other consideration had likewise to be taken into account. Thus, for example, it is but natural that very definite instructions were given as regards the amount of money to be spent on the enterprise ; and so, further on, we are informed that the sum for the purchase of such place or port was not to exceed "four, five or six thousand pounds in the purchase". But the President was further authorised that if he could discover such a place that satisfied all the above requirements, he was at liberty to spend a sum not exceeding £8,000 at the utmost. It is plain, therefore, that the English did not intend to incur expenses for which they would not be reimbursed by the customs or revenues of the place they wanted to acquire.[1]

Such was the state of affairs in the month of April, 1658. On the 19th August the *Constantinople Merchant,* commanded by Robert Brown, brought a new letter from the Company on the same subject. This letter, dated the 23rd March, 1659, referred once more to the contents of that of the 9th April, 1658. They hoped that during the interval some progress had been made concerning one of the ports mentioned in their last letter. "But if you have not," wrote the Company to the Surat Council, "then wee desire you to take notice that wee have here againe resumed the debate of this businesse, and doe conclude that Danda Rajapore will be very comodious place and secure to settle upon, being soe scituated as that in respect of trade, both to Persia, Mocha, Acheene, etc., and the freenesse from troubles and dangers, that

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[1] From the Company to President Wyche, 9th April, 1658, *English Factories,* 1655-60, p. 151.

it is to be preferred far before Suratt." Finally, the Company suggested the seizure of the Castle of Danda-Rajpuri to counterbalance the loss sustained by the English in 1621 when their Agra Caravan was plundered by the Deccany Army as seen in the introduction.[1]

It was easy for the Company to transmit instructions to their employees here in India, but these instructions were difficult to carry out for several reasons. The English could not take an active part in the matter; in fact, they could do nothing more at the time than send to the Company occasional dispatches containing information on the subject of this affair and expressing their helplessness. The successful execution of such a project demanded men and money, and they had neither at their disposal. "Wee have neither men nor moneys to prosecute any such designe," wrote the President to the Company in his letter dated 10th January, 1660.[2] Under these circumstances it was impossible not to realise that the capture of Danda-Rajpuri was not easy of accomplishment.

At the end of the year 1659, the port of Danda-Rajpuri was already in the power of Rustam Jemah, a rebel General of Ali Adil Shah II of Bijapur. Shivaji had by this time conquered the city of Danda; but he could not succeed in reducing the Castle. Accordingly, Rustam Jemah invited the English to assist Shivaji to take the fort by sending several ships which would co-operate with the land-forces of Shivaji. In order to inveigle the English into complying with his request, Rustam declared to them that within the Castle there was a great treasure, part of which "wee must have," says Revington, "and the castle too, give him but the rest". Whether the English accepted the invitation of Rustam Jemah is not known to us. However, in the absence of any documents referring to this expedition we are led to surmise that the offer failed to appeal to the English authorities.[3]

This surmise seems to be correct. For a year later (1660), Revington was still of opinion that, if the English helped Shivaji in capturing Janjira, it was likely that the Maratha leader

[1] From Company to the Surat Council, 23rd March, 1659, *English Factories*, 1655-60, pp. 207-8.

[2] From President Andrews to the Company, 10th January, 1660, *English Factories*, 1655-60, p. 214.

[3] From Revington to the Company, 10th December, 1659, *English Factories*, 1655-60, pp. 250-1.

would place that coveted fortress in their hands.[1] From this we may conclude that the proposal of Rustam Jemah came to nothing, and that no such expedition took place in 1659.

The opening of the year 1660 found Danda-Rajpuri once more the constant focus of the attention of the English factors. President Andrews with his colleague Matthew Forster and others made a voyage down the coast to find out a new centre for English trade, and that new centre was no other than Danda-Rajpuri. "They took with them a pinnace," wrote President Andrews to the Company, "in which they could survey at leisure Danda-Rajpuri."[2] The English thought that they had already delayed too long; they determined to take possession of the Castle in an openly hostile manner, and hence prepared to take it by surprise. With this object in view they designed to send the whole fleet from the Gulph of Persia to Danda-Rajpuri. Furthermore, in order that their efforts might be better crowned with success, "wee require that you cause to bee shipt," wrote the Company in a private letter to President Andrews, "upon the *Eagle* and *Richard* and *Martha* twoe morter peeces (one of the large and another of the smaller size), with 100 of the smaller sort and 50 of the larger sort of granadoe shells with an able person that knowes how to use them". It was evident that if the English were successful in their design, they were sure to make a permanent settlement upon the coast. However, on the other hand, they had greatly to fear the Dutch who were daily increasing both their ships and men in preparation for an attack to be made on India in the following year. "And therefore it concerns you," wrote the Company, "both for the honnor of the nation and the good of the Companie, to use your utmost endeavours for the effecting hereof."

Besides this private letter President Andrews received a sealed box which contained a plan for making an assault upon Janjira. It was suggested in this plan that the attack could be made more effective, "by the clapping in one or twoe of the smaller ships between the island and the mayne," and by cutting off all sources of food supplies from the neighbouring districts. Moreover, it was stated that if those who held the Castle were willing to surrender, then the President should try to obtain from them such terms as were most favourable to the Company. On the

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[1] From Revington to the Company, 10th December, 1659, *English Factories*, 1655-60, p. 352.

[2] From President Andrews to the Company, 13th January, 1660, *English Factories*, 1655-60, pp. 299-300.

other hand, if they were to resist and refuse to accept any reasonable terms, "then wee doe order that you advise in Counsell togither and use your utmost endeavours for the gaining of the said castle". All the spoils obtained were to be set apart for the use of the Company, and the rest of the plunder was to be distributed amongst those who took part in the expedition. It was hoped that the possession of the Castle would bring with it the surrender of the town and all the other parts of the country that were formerly under the subjection of the said Castle.[1] It seems that the second expedition was never carried out.

In a letter addressed to Revington at Panhala it is mentioned that the English lascars refused to go to Surat for fear of the Sidis' vessels at Danda-Rajpuri, which were on the look out for the Persian ships belonging to the port. However, they consented to proceed on a promise being given to the owner of the vessel who was a town merchant, "to gett the Englishes noat unto said Siddy".[2]

The Council perforce turned once more to the problem of discovering the possibility of obtaining by peaceable means a fortified settlement on the Western Coast. This time their patience was exhausted. They appear to have been convinced that they could no longer afford to jeopardise their interest by employing their quondam, businesslike methods of bargain, of making proposals, and waiting for acceptance thereof. The necessity for taking more summary measures was, it seems, apparent to them. "Our expectations are now holly bent," wrote the Council, "to the attaining of Donda Rojapore. And it is high tyme to seeke a place of refuge, when the honour of our nation, nay our lives are even at stake." The President and the Council debated seriously over the matter before they could come to a final conclusion. At last they decided to send Captain Roger Middleton with a few attendants and a small present of five yards of satin and three yards of scarlet to the Governor of Danda-Rajpuri, on a pretence, and request him to allow the English ships to shelter in his harbour whenever it was deemed necessary. But the real intention underlying this request of the English was to take a survey of the place, to gauge its strength and to discover a vulnerable part against which an attack could be directed with facility.

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[1] From the Company to President Andrews, 9th April, 1660, *English Factories*, pp. 337-9.

[2] To Revington at Panala, 23rd April, 1660, *English Factories*, 1655-60, p. 374.

A colleague, in the person of Edward Lloyd, was sent to help Middleton in this mission. The English had to wait till the end of August on account of the rains before their plans for the proposed visit could be carried into execution. In the instructions given to Messrs. Lloyd and Middleton they were advised to act in a most cautious manner in their dealings with the Sidi of Janjira. "In the first place, therefore, wee desire you to put into Donda-Rojapore,.........as to observe the port, scituation, and accomodation of the place; but with the most of care of your owne persons, sending the boat on shore well man'd and observing the countnaunces of the shore before landing." Such were some of the instructions of caution given by the Council. The cost of this visit, not taking into account the price of the five yards of satin and the three yards of scarlet, was "fifty ryalls".[1] As to the result of this interesting plan the records are once more silent on the subject. However, the author of *The English Factories,* Mr. William Foster, believes that some account was given to the Company in a letter sent to England by the ships early in 1661; but he adds that this letter is unintelligible; and moreover, the Surat Factory Records fail at the end of 1660.[2]

This constant failure of the English in their endeavours made them turn away for the time being from the idea of attaining their desideratum. In a letter from Basra dated the 15th of July, 1660, William Parker and George Cranmer disapproved of the English plan, and advised them to give up the undertaking; for they believed that Janjira could not after all prove to be such a port as they had formerly expected it to be.[3]

Though the English were advised to give up their undertakings in respect of this place, we find that in the year 1661 the English were by no means disposed to remain quiescent about the affair. In a communication of the 27th March, 1661 the

[1] From the Council, 22nd June, 1660, *English Factories,* 1655-60, pp. 330-3.

[2] Orme's account of the surrender of Panella to Sidi Johar, the description of his escape from other stations to Danda-Rajapore, and the details about the forged order by means of which the commander of Janjira was induced to give up the fortress are found not to be correct. Probably Orme mistook Rajapur in Ratnagiri for Rajpuri of Janjira. Rajapur was captured by Shivaji shortly after Sidi Johar's escape from Panhala fort; but this was not the case with Rajpuri. Orme, *Historical Fragments of Indostan,* pp. 8-10, cf. *Bombay Gazetteer,* XI, Kolaba and Janjira, p. 436, note 7.

[3] Basra letter, 15th July, 1660, *English Factories,* 1655-60, pp. 320-1.

Committee impressed upon the English to keep up the Factory of Rajapore, and wrote that they were anxiously waiting to hear the good news that the task with which they had been entrusted had been brought to a successful issue by the capture of the fort.[1]

During this period there was only one person whom the English had to fear in connection with the Castle of Danda-Rajpuri, and this was Shivaji. They, therefore, were anxious to come to a compromise "and with that object talked with "Dowrowjis" (Daruji), his chief servant".[2] He gave them to understand that if the Castle of Danda were to be taken from the Sidi, all the neighbouring places would fall into Shivaji's hands. Hence the English had strong reason to believe that if they assisted Shivaji, there was no reason for them to doubt that he would grant them the ports, towns or money that they desired.

Meanwhile, Revington and other Englishmen were imprisoned by the Marathas at Rajapore on the pretext that they had assisted Sidi Johar with mortars and shells at the siege of Panhala. During their imprisonment Shivaji's Brahaman had talked to them, and had promised them a seat called "Meate Bunder", if the English helped Shivaji against Rajpuri. But after Shivaji had thus imprisoned Englishmen, it was not possible for the English authorities further to interfere in the affair.

Realising that this direct request for help was of no avail, Shivaji sought to obtain it indirectly by promising to release them on condition that they would pay a lakh of pagodas. His real intention thereby was to have English assistance against Danda-Rajpuri; "for, we believe," wrote Revington and his fellow prisoners, "his demanding a lakh (?) of pagodas from us is only to bring us to secure him in that particular". But nothing could induce the prisoners to buy their liberty for a sum of a lakh of pagodas. So determined were they that they wrote to the Council at Surat: "If he should be insolent, and say we were now in his hands and he would keep us and our money till the business was done, the reply is......that keep us and kill us......he may, but for money and service he never would have from us so long as he kept us." At last Revington got tired of his life in prison and, abandoning his former resolve, earned his

[1] From the Committee to the Company, 27th March, 1661, *English Factories,* 1661-5, p. 19.

[2] Dorogy otherwise called Daruji is mentioned in a previous letter as the chief commander of the forces, *English Factories,* 1655-60, p. 358.

liberty by the payment of a price of Rs. 666 which he claimed from the Company as his wages. A letter was sent to Shivaji by "Hossan" (Hussain) who was asked to persuade him into the belief that the English were in earnest about Danda-Rajpuri.[1]

The records are then silent till the 7th December, 1661, when in a letter from the President and Council to the Company we learn that Revington arrived at Surat ruined and broken in health. He survived a few days to enjoy his liberty. As to the fate of other prisoners nothing is known to us, except the writing of the President and the Council to the Company that "to gaine the other Englishes liberty wee shall use all means possible".[2]

In passing we must not fail to mention that during the monsoon of 1661 Shivaji exerted his whole strength against Fateh Khan, and at last captured Danda-Rajpuri. He then started the siege of the island fort of Janjira; but he failed to make any impression on the citadel for want of guns and artillerymen. Besides this, Fateh Khan was so hard-pressed by the losses inflicted upon him by Shivaji that he could not help applying to his new neighbours, the English, for assistance. It seems that the authorities of Bombay were ready to comply with the request of the Sidis, and the reason which they cited is certainly worthy of notice. It was that the English had not by that time learnt the true value of their insular possession. "Those cunning intriguers and short-sighted politicians"[3] foresaw that by interposing in the affairs of the Sidis, Janjira would eventually fall into their hands, and its advantages as a settlement would be superior to those of Bombay. As to the steps taken by them the records give no information. So great a name for strength did the Janjira rock acquire for itself that the English factors in Bombay wrote to Surat Council to give up Bombay and take Janjira instead.[4]

[1] From Revington and his fellow prisoners to Surat, dated 'Soangur' 10th June, 1661, *English Factories*, 1661-4, pp. 5-11.

[2] From President and Council to the Company, 7th December, 1661, *English Factories*, 1661-4, pp. 11-12.

Professor J. Sarkar, in his book entitled *Shivaji and his Times* Ch. xiv, says that the English were eventually released about February 5th, 1663, after more than 3 years' captivity. It does not, therefore, follow that the date about the release of Revington is wrong. It is probable that by this date the Professor refers to the release of other prisoners. Maratha Mss., referred to by Grant Duff, *History of the Marathas, I*, p. 145, note 1.

[3] cf. Anderson, *The English in Western India*, p. 79.

[4] cf. *Bombay Gazetteer*, XI, Kolaba and Janjira, p. 436.

These Sidis were dangerous and troublesome neighbours as shall be shown later on; and no doubt the English must have been seriously faced with the problem of the balance of convenience,—the problem whether in the present contingency it would be more convenient to have the Sidis as friends or foes.

CHAPTER II

SIDIS' VISITS TO BOMBAY

(1661-1686)

Soon the prospects of the British changed on the Western Coast of India. In February, 1660, the East India Company mooted the project of the acquisition of Bombay.

Article XI of the Treaty, signed between the King of Portugal and the British on June 23rd, 1661, declared that "the King of Portugal with the assent and advice of his Council gives, transfers and, by these presents, grants and confirms unto the King of Great Britain, his heirs and successors for ever the Port and Island of Bombay in the East Indies with all its rights, profits, territories and appurtenances whatsoever thereunto belonging, and together with all income and revenue, as also the direct and absolute Dominion and Sovereignty of the said Port and Island of Bombay and premises, with all their royalties, freely, fully and absolutely".[1]

The Portuguese Governor indulged in the congenial task of raising trivial and technical objections and delayed the cession of Bombay on very tedious, frivolous and wearisome pretexts. But these various pretexts of the Portuguese Governor had no effect on the King of Portugal, who sent a final answer to the Viceroy on the 10th of August, 1663. The Portuguese King did not regret in the least that he was to lose the brightest jewel in his crown. Two years later the Portuguese Governor made a final appeal to the Viceroy Antonio de Mello de Castro. The Viceroy became disgusted with the whole affair. But it was not till the 18th of February, 1665 that Mr. Humphrey Cooke took possession of the Island of Bombay.[2] By the Charter of the 27th March, 1668 Bombay was transferred to the East India Company by the English Government.[3]

The opening of the year 1669 saw the Sidis and Shivaji once more engaged in mutual warfare. During the eight preceding years Shivaji had battered the rock-fort but with little success.[4]

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[1] Da Cunah, *Origin of Bombay*, p. 241.
[2] *Ibid.*, p. 262.
[3] *Ibid.*, p. 272.
[4] *Bombay Gazetteer*, XXVI, p. 436.

In the year 1669, he made another fierce attack on the Sidi of Danda-Rajpuri. Though it was not possible for him to storm the place, yet he hoped to starve it out. The Sidi was determined to hold out to the last and then to deliver it up to the Moghul, whose army was somewhere near Kalyan under the leadership of "Londee Cka" (Lodi Khan). Moreover, the Sidi could no more trust in the Portuguese friendship, for, in spite of their professions of friendship, the Portuguese Captain of Chaul had seized one of his ships. Therefore, the only source from which the Sidi could expect any help to proceed was the friendship with the English, "whom he takes to have more honour," and to show his sincerity of purpose he forthwith dispatched four vessels. He also sent a batch of ten others, inferior in make, but all the same serviceable for the coastal trade. Finally, he made a promise of sending in addition fifteen smaller ships.

The English would have acted foolishly, if they had not profited by such an advantageous and honourable opportunity as was offered to them, "and the denying," wrote the factors Henry Young and James Adames, "would too much discover our tymerossity". They also expected that the Sidi would send thirty horses and some women and children to ease his expense of provisions. This way of proceeding was so common in India, that to oppose it was looked upon as an act of hostility. Under these circumstances a General Court concluded it reasonable to grant the request. It was unanimously agreed that they saw no danger in permitting the Sidi to land with more than 200 unarmed men, though no such request had been made by him up to that time. It was also believed that his sojourn in Bombay, if he at all made one, would not last longer than the time needed to make the necessary preparations to go to the Court of Delhi. By thus obliging him the English Court expected to receive some advantages from the Sidi and to induce him to accept any honourable terms which the English might put forward.

The time had at last come for the English to gratify their dearest desire. Once more the importance of the place loomed large in their minds, as is obvious from the following description :

"This place is doubtless of great concerne, almost invincible if not blockt up by sea, it hath 572 pieces of Ordinance as good report speakes, and may be kept with a small force, and if occasion were some number of Portuguese souldiers might be procured, the place would be much more considerable than this, the Company formerly hath had an eye to it, and now may be

the very nick of time to compasse it." So eager were they to expedite their designs that they even wished that some of the ships which had arrived from Europe might be detained by the troubles prevailing in Surat; for such a contingency would go some way to further their designs.[1]

Meanwhile, Shivaji, in the manner of a gamester rendered desperate by continual losses, played his remaining card as energetically as he could, so as to gain his object in one final effort. So it was that in 1670 he directed against Janjira his ninth attack, more vigorous and determined than any of his previous attempts. Not only did he on this occasion make use of force of arms, but he also managed to sow dissensions among the defenders. Fateh Khan (Futih Khan),[2] who had first rejected inducements of every sort, now turned to Shivaji for protection, and entertained thoughts of a surrender. But events of comparatively little importance entirely upset Shivaji's plans, and he was once more defeated by the Sidis.[3]

The following sequence of events led to this unexpected result. Early in the year 1672 the peace of Bombay was disturbed by the arrival of a band of Corsaires, who happened to be Sidis. For the Sidis were experienced seamen as is proved by the fact that in 1660 they were appointed Moghul admirals. In 1672, after the overthrow of Fateh Khan, Sidi Sambal became admiral. He was an enterprising fellow, for he was continually engaged in warfare with the Marathas, and burnt several houses in Mazgaon. In the same year Sidi Sambal died and was succeeded by Sidi Yakut Khan, who proved himself as energetic as his predecessor. He was also continually interfering with Maratha shipping and in October, 1672 anchored with a fleet off Bombay and begged of the President his permission to enter the harbour in order to ravage the districts of Panvel, Pen and Alibagh which belonged to Shivaji. The permission was refused by President Aungier, and they had to repair to Janjira. Janjira, which was at that time besieged by Shivaji, was relieved by their unexpected arrival.

On the 24th of December, 1672, inflated by the success

[1] From Henry Young and James Adames to the President and Council at Surat, 16th October, 1669, *Appendix*, No. 1.

[2] Grant Duff in his *History of the Marathas* spells "Fateh Khan" as "Futih Khan". But the former is likely to be correct. "Fateh" is a Persian word meaning victory.

[3] cf. Grant Duff, *History of the Marathas*, I, p. 191.

that they had achieved against the Marathas, the Sidi's fleet entered Bombay harbour without deeming it necessary to obtain anyone's permission. The President had to receive them with constrained civility, for this behaviour of the Sidis left him in an awkward predicament. What course should the President adopt? On the one side, Sidi Yakut Khan urged him to form a league against Shivaji; on the other hand, Shivaji vowed that if anything of the sort took place, he would invade Bombay.[1] What made confusion worse confounded was that the English authorities were engaged in pourparlers both with the Sidis and with Shivaji. From a letter to the President at Bombay dated the 11th of January, 1672-73 we gather that thirty-six Surat vessels which had arrived in Bombay actually helped the Sidi of Danda-Rajpuri against Shivaji, while they had also received an envoy from Shivaji who asked the President for help against the Sidi.

But to earn a reputation for fairness in dealings and at the same time to extract advantages from both the parties was a decidedly difficult task. Still the Governor endeavoured to do all that lay in his power.[2] He explained to the Sidi that a war with Shivaji meant the stoppage of all supplies to Bombay. Then the Sidi showed that he could appreciate the dilemma of the English, and was considerate enough to take his departure for Surat in 1673.[3]

But before starting, in spite of the friendliness of Sidi Yakut Khan, his people, "with insolence characteristic of Moors in the Moghal's service," made a bonfire of the several houses which had been allotted to them during their stay in Mazgaon.[4]

About the middle of March, 1673, the English received certain intelligence that Rickloffe on behalf of the Dutch, taking advantage of the differences that existed between them and Shivaji, had completed negotiations with the Marathas for reciprocal assistance in furtherance of the interests of both. It was proposed to conclude a mutual agreement by which Shivaji was to assist the Dutch with 3,000 men in taking Bombay, whilst the Dutch promised him in return to supply him with the whole

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[1] cf. Anderson, *The English in Western India*, p. 79; *Bombay Gazetteer*, XXVI, part ii, p. 509; Edwardes, *Rise of Bombay*, p. 130; Kincaid and Parasnis, I, p. 238.

[2] From Surat to the President at Bombay, 11th January, 1672-3, *Appendix*, No. 2, cf. *Bombay Gazetteer*, XXVI, part ii, p. 509.

[3] Anderson, *The English in Western India*, p. 79.

[4] cf. *Bombay Gazetteer*, XXVI, part ii, p. 509.

of their fleet for the purpose of capturing Danda-Rajpuri from the Sidi. It was a question of grave consideration for the President to decide how to act at this critical juncture. Letters were immediately dispatched by the President to Shivaji, asking him to set aside all thoughts of such a design, and offering him the most advantageous terms possible in a final settlement between him and the Sidi. Nor did the President omit to warn Shivaji that the Dutch would prove dangerous neighbours to both of them. Shivaji was passionately desirous of taking Danda-Rajpuri; but he was not a person to be swayed by the sentiment of the moment. He was astute enough to see through the intentions of the Dutch, and did not comply with their demands. By engaging in war with the Sidis, Shivaji had not only spent a vast amount of treasure, but had also suffered a loss of nearly 15,000 men.[1]

In May, 1673, the Sidi again came and craved permission 'to winter'[2] on the island of Bombay from May to October. President Aungier was afraid that the Great Moghul might retaliate upon the factors at Surat if his admiral, the Sidi, was refused permission. Any inhospitable treatment of these unwelcome visitors would also mean the destruction of English trade. The importance of this trade is described in a letter from the Surat Council in answer to a letter received by them from the President and Council at Bombay. "The Hon'ble Company's trade in this King's dominions is not small, it is of great consideration and ought by all means to be preserved, but yett if wee cannot maintain our Trade here, without the loss of our Island wee shall certainly be admitted......Trade, when that is lost wee shall be subject to thousand insolencys."[3] The President, therefore, permitted the Sidi to haul four of his vessels ashore on condition that their crews should withdraw and leave them under the garrison's protection.

With the beginning of the fair season, the Sidi's fleet which had been hauled ashore at Bombay put to sea, and cruising along the coast of Ratnagiri pillaged some of the vessels belonging

[1] From Surat to the President at Bombay, 18th March, 1673, *Appendix*, No. 3.

[2] By 'winter' the English denoted that wet and boisterous but hot and steamy season between June and October. cf. Anderson, *The English in Western India*, p. 80.

[3] From Surat to Council, 25th October, 1673, *Appendix*, No. 7.

either to Shivaji or to the neutral party, which the Sidi was bound to protect.[1]

On the 10th of October, 1673,[2] the Sidis, with their fleet commanded by Sidi Sambal, once more entered the Bombay harbour without any previous intimation or request, and, keeping at the bottom of the Bay, laid waste the Pen and the Nagothana rivers in the "Corlahs" (Kurlas)[3] of Shivaji, which was contrary to their solemn promise. But Sidi Sambal did not derive great profit from this assault. However, he caused much unnecessary bloodshed and brought with him to Bombay a number of men, women and children, who had been made slaves. Bombay had at that time entirely to rely for its provisions on these Kurlas, and this visit of the Sidi did cause some scarcity of provisions and firewood on the island. The President feared that the lack of provisions would result in the desertion of the island, which would cause the English a serious loss of income and revenue. This loss of income would make it difficult for the Honourable Company to maintain their garrison.

The merchants were also disturbed to some extent. But the worst was the Sidi's design to build a fort on a little island in the Nagothana river just near the Fort of Bombay. In ordinary circumstances the Portuguese would have prevented the Sidis from building it; but so great was their antipathy against the English that in the present case they were not likely to raise any objection. It was, therefore, essential to adopt all possible means to prevent the Sidi from carrying out this project, and it was thought right to prevent their fleet from coming into this port.

Aungier remonstrated with the Sidi and the Governor of Surat for the violation of the Bombay harbour, but his remonstrances were of no avail. "Were it not for the tender regard," says the President, "we have to your Honrs : Interest and Trade in Surat and Bengalla wee should take some other course to check the Sidyes evill designe." It was indeed with great difficulty that the President sufficiently curbed his indignation to abstain from sinking the Sidi's ships, when with such

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[1] Orme, *Historical Fragments of Indostan*, p. 38; Anderson, *The English in Western India*, p. 80; *Bombay Gazetteer*, XXVI, part ii, p. 509.

[2] The date mentioned in the Gazetteer is different from that given by Orme in his *Historical Fragments of Indostan*—namely, it is 18th October instead of 10th, cf. *Bombay Gazetteer*, XI, p. 439.

[3] Kurla is situated on the north of Bombay harbour.

insolence they anchored under Bombay Castle, for it seemed to him that "he (the Sidi) was put on it on purpose". In spite of the President's indignation the Sidi renewed his depredations in the Kurlas, till one hundred of the Sidis were surprised and cut to pieces without mercy by the troops of Shivaji which had arrived from Rairi. The Sidi landed the best part of his force to meet these unexpected foes, and Shivaji's troops were defeated with considerable loss. At last he (the Sidi) withdrew his smaller vessels, and promised not to commit any hostilities in the harbour.

He again simulated friendship with the English, and in the existing condition of affairs the President thought it politic not to disoblige the Sidi by refusing him provisions for his fleet, on condition that he would not molest this port. But sooner or later circumstances were bound to arise when the English and the Sidis would again be at variance with each other. [1] For all the English in India now agreed on the importance of Danda-Rajpuri, as may be seen from the following extract from a letter written by President Aungier at Bombay to the Presidency of Surat. "Your good opinion of Rajapore may encourage us, as wee see occasion to think of some settlement there against the next yeare." [2]

It seems that after the event of the 10th October the Sidi was quiet, but in his letter to the Court of Delhi he grossly misrepresented his dealings with President Aungier. [3] We may remark in passing that the President's conduct may be looked upon as fair and honest, considering the trying situation he had to meet. Under any circumstances he had to protect the island from hostile inroads, which the Sidi would not have failed to make if he had not acted firmly on this occasion. He had also to prevent the danger of famine breaking out for lack of provisions. "Its probable," wrote Aungier, "those base lies which he hath wrote, may heat your furious Governor, but we confide much in your prudence to temporize with him." Hence, the President thought of writing a letter to Mr. Thomas Roach at Agra, furnishing him with an account of the events that took

[1] From the President at Bombay to Surat, 23rd October, 1673, *Appendix*, No. 6; from Surat to the President at Bombay, 25th October, 1673, *Appendix*, No. 7; from the President at Bombay, 31st October, 1673, *Appendix*, No. 8; Orme, *Historical Fragments of Indostan*, pp. 38-9.

[2] From President Aungier and Council at Bombay to the President at Surat, 23rd October, 1673, *Appendix*, No. 4.

[3] From Aungier to Surat Government, 23rd October, 1673, *Appendix*, No. 5.

place, and establishing his veracity by pointing out as regards the Sidi's misrepresentations which he had already written and would write against the English in future. "It concerns us," says the President, "to vindicate our own innocency from those lyes and calumnys which the Siddy casts upon us least the king should through misinformation pass some order to the prejudice or dishonour of the Hon'ble Company's affaires."

It seems that Mr. Thomas Roach had written to the President to give the Sidi a present which would induce him to leave the bay; but the President did not approve of the idea, saying that the present once given would be construed as a yearly toll to be levied on the English for buying him off, and would thus create a recurring nuisance for the English. A safer and better way would be, wrote the President, "to make a present to 'Ghasti Caun' (Ghasty Khan), most likely the General of the Sidi's army, and desire his strict order, that he doe not molest this bay in the least but keepe a fair correspondence with us". Further on, he adds that the Sidi's people had caused widespread damage on the island by stealing cattle and robbing the poor people, about which they had not complained at all.[1] In December he went away with the whole fleet to Surat carrying with him little success; and a demand for money from the Surat Governor for the great expenses he had incurred was the result of a quarrel.[2]

The year 1674 brought with it fresh troubles. Aungier's task proved by no means to be an easy one. During that year the English troops mutinied on the question of pay and provisions.[3] Shivaji, though enraged by the recent devastations by the Sidi, had no ground for harbouring any grudge against President Aungier. He knew that Aungier was endeavouring his utmost to prevent such events from taking place. He therefore repeated his former request for cannon, and invited an ambassador to settle their former differences. It was at this juncture that letters arrived continually from the Governor of Surat requesting the President that the Sidi's fleet might be allowed to pass the approaching monsoon in the Bombay harbour. But

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[1] From President Aungier to Surat Government, 23rd October, 1673, *Appendix*, No. 5; Letter dated 31st October, 1673, *Appendix*, No. 8.

[2] Orme, *Historical Fragments of Indostan*, p. 40.

[3] The mutineers were described by the Bombay Council as "dangerous, blood-thirsty villeins" and that the two ringleaders had been ordered "to throw dice on a drumhead under the gallows and the loser to die". cf. *Bombay Gazetteer*, II, p. 63.

if any such favour were shown to the Sidi, Shivaji threatened to assist the Dutch fleet with 10,000 men to attack the island of Bombay.[1]

Mr. Aungier was in a quandary. His perplexity increased on the appearance of the Sidi's fleet, which anchored at the entrance of the harbour on 24th April, 1674. The same evening a violent gale arose, which would have justified their taking shelter in the harbour had they been minded to do so. But the rigour of the weather abated, and the Sidis were requested to depart. Instead of doing so, this request was thus answered. Several boats of the Sidis entered the channel, which divides the island from the mainland, rowed up the Mahim creek, and anchored just off the North-East of "Sion". There a number of men landed, scared away the inhabitants, took possession of the house with the intention of establishing their headquarters there during the monsoon, and would have certainly succeeded in their project, had they not been expelled by the English troops.

About the same time, the Sidis made an appearance with 500 men at Mazgaon, the site of their former residence, but were driven back by the cannon fired from the shore. These enterprises of the Sidis were inspired by the news they had received that the Dutch fleet was going to Surat. The English authorities therefore decided that not more than 300 men should remain on shore at a time, and that they should bring no other weapons but their swords. They granted this permission much against their will, and told the Sidis that as soon as they began to infest the Kurlas they would not be allowed to stay on shore. All this is confirmed in a letter from President Aungier to the Factors at Surat. "Sidi Sambal forced us much against our will to permit him to winter with his fleete at Mazgaon." Nevertheless, all the troubles were borne with patience, "because the people of your Island (Bombay)," says Aungier, "are not a little enriched by the money which he and his souldiers spent here". Shivaji's agent was at that time negotiating a treaty on the island.[2]

Again, in a letter from the President of Bombay to Mr. Henry Oxinden, we find that the English were not at all desirous to grant the Sidi's request for wintering in the harbour of Bombay;

[1] Orme, *Fragments of Indostan*, p. 41.
[2] From Aungier, dated 20th August, 1674, *Appendix*, No. 10; Orme, *Historical Fragments of Indostan*, p. 43.

but it seems that the pressure of the circumstances had rendered them helpless. "Wee reasonably presume that Sevajee will be much offended at the Sidys wintering his fleete in this Bay, but when he hath understood what endeavours we have used to turne him out and how roughly we have treated his men, he would be sensible enough to understand the difficulty of the English." On the other hand in the same letter it is also made evident that the English desired to be on good terms with the Sidi, because says the President to Mr. Henry Oxinden, "when you have represented unto him (Shivaji's ambassador), and made him sensible of the indispensable ingagements that we have in the Mogull's country by means of traide and setting of Factories in his Dominions, we doubt not but he will be fully satisfied of our integrity, and the full desire we have to keep a good understanding with him". It should also be pointed out that Shivaji had his vessels wintering in the Bombay harbour. It was therefore not unreasonable to grant the Sidi the same favour, though it may be entirely against the inclination of the English.[1]

Now that the English and Shivaji had arrived at a settlement of their differences, Mr. Oxinden offered to bring about peace between Shivaji and the Sidis. But he was not certain that his attempts would be successful. First of all the Moghul Emperor might oppose the scheme. Next Shivaji had suffered great losses at Janjira, and was not likely to accept this offer of the British; for the last fifteen years he had vainly endeavoured to capture Janjira, "what three ships of war" as Orme rather blatantly remarks, "would have accomplished in three hours".[2]

The Sidi's fleet, which sailed from Bombay to Surat in September, 1674, left Surat fearing the arrival of the Dutch. Aurangzeb had at that time returned from the Indus to Delhi, as the Afghan War (1675) was in its last stages. He urged his General Bahadur Khan to proceed without delay against Shivaji.[3] In the meantime, the English were helping Danda-Rajpuri still at war with Shivaji. They supplied the Sidis with all good neighbourly assistance,—ships, wood, water and provisions "for their mony". This help was rendered on condition that none of his people would encroach on His Majesty's rights, or

[1] From the President to Henry Oxinden, 11th May, 1674, *Appendix*, No. 9.
[2] Orme, *Historical Fragments of Indostan*, p. 44.
[3] *Ibid.*, p. 42.

rob, plunder or disturb in the least any boat or vessel from "Henry Cunry" (Khanderi)[1] and Chaul. At the same time Aurangzeb also continued his policy of strengthening the Sidis of Danda-Rajpuri. He supplied them two hundred fighting men, provisions and ammunition, several frigates and two large men-of-war.

It was the middle of November by the time these operations were commenced. A large detachment was encamped at "Galyan" (Kalyan). Shortly afterwards their fleet arrived in the Bombay harbour, whence a reinforcement was sent to the camp at Mazgaon. The Sidi of Danda-Rajpuri intended to be on the look-out for Shivaji's fleet, hoping to destroy it in the port. But having been baulked of their expectations, his men plundered and burnt "Vingurla" (Vengurla) and several other towns. At this fresh provocation Shivaji gave orders that his fleet, consisting of 57 small, well-manned frigates, should leave from Gheria and Rajpuri and put to sea.

The English authorities were not a little pleased at this unexpected turn of events. "*The East India Merchant*," wrote the Presidency of Surat in their letter dated the 26th of November, 1675, "who put in here yesterday in her voiage up from the Mallabar Coast mett with both Fleets; wee wish they may meet and box it out stoutly, for they are both equally troublesome to us, and much hinder the trade of our port, by this your Honrs will see Sevajee hath his hands full, how he will deal with them all we must leave time to discover."[2]

However, the English were not destined to be left long in peace, for Sidi Sambal, who had up to 1676 commanded both the Sidi's and the Moghul fleet, arrived in Bombay from Janjira in April, 1676. The usual wintering of the Sidis at Bombay was between the months of May and October; but this time the Sidi came earlier on account of some disputes among the principal commanders and the Governor of Janjira himself. It seems that the cause of the whole trouble arose from Sidi Sambal embezzling the money belonging to the Community. He had also acted dishonestly with regard to the accounts of the Sidis with

[1] From the President, dated 28th September, 1675, *Appendix*, No. 11. cf. Hobson Jobson for the word Hendry Kendry.

[2] From Surat to the President, 26th November, 1675, *Appendix*, No. 12; Orme, *Historical Fragments of Indostan*, pp. 52-3 mentions that Shivaji "strengthened the Sidee's fleet with two large ship, two frigates, and two thousand men".

the Moghul Emperor. Hence, he importuned hard to be allowed to winter at Bombay.[1]

When the Sidis entered the harbour of Bombay, President Aungier was at Surat, where he received this news. In a letter from Swalley to the Bombay Castle, he clearly says that "the Govr. of Surat hath not made applications to us in the least concerning its wintering there".[2] Aungier foresaw that this would cause trouble in Bombay Island and accordingly demanded from the Moghul Governor of Surat a written request to the Sidi to leave the harbour promising that all their previous misdeeds to the detriment of the British of Bombay would be forgotten.[3]

In this letter Aungier also gave some practical advice regarding the line of action to be adopted towards the Sidi's fleet. He wrote that under no circumstances should the Sidi be allowed to winter in Bombay, for formerly the English had incurred heavy expenses on account of him and his men ; besides the Sidis could not be trusted on shore. "You must not grant it," wrote Aungier, "except you are sure he will goe on board againe in a day or two time, nor must you suffer his men to goe ashore armed, or too many at a time, for the preventing of any mischiefe that may ensue." Further on, he requested his colleagues to be very polite in their demeanour towards the Sidi and all the officers and to supply them their wants. "Wee would have you be very civill in your discourses and arguments to the Siddy and all the officers.........and fayle not to supply them with what they may want," says Aungier in his letter from Swalley dated the 14th of April, 1674.[4] But these instructions were rendered useless to his colleagues in Bombay by Sidi Sambal quitting the harbour on the 8th of April, 1676.[5] By this time, Sidi Sambal's influence was decidedly weakening. In the same year he was actually superseded as commander of the Sidi's fleet by Sidi Kasim ; and in July, 1674 the whole of the Sidi fleet under the command of Sidi Kasim came to Bombay.

Sidi Kasim was received with respect, and was allowed to fix his abode at Mazgaon "where the larger vessels rode, and the smaller were hauled on shore". They continued to reside there till the middle of August, when "Morah Pundit" (Moro Punt),

[1] Orme, *Historical Fragments of Indostan*, pp. 54-5.
[2] Forrest, *Home Series*, I, p. 94.
[3] Orme, *Historical Fragments of Indostan*, p. 55.
[4] Aungier's letter from Swalley Marine to Bombay, 14th April, 1674, Forrest, *Home Series*, I, p. 95.
[5] Orme, *Historical Fragments of Indostan*, p. 55.

the Maratha General, swooped down the Ghats with an army of 10,000 men to renew his attack on Janjira. To meet this attack Sidi Kasim took with him 300 men to Janjira where he managed to destroy the floating batteries of Moro Punt and compelled him to retire to Raygad.[1]

In 1677 the English were nearly involved in a quarrel with the Sidi, because a certain Ensign Thorpe in the Company's navy chose to assault and injure the crew of one of his vessels. After having left the Bombay harbour in his "Manchua" (Manchava),[2] he descried a boat belonging to the Sidi's fleet making towards him. The Sidis took him for a Mallabar pirate, and he did not choose to correct their mistake. As soon as they were near enough, Ensign Thorpe hoisted the English flag, and they realising their error began to sheer off. But the Ensign, desirous of extorting a little money, invited the Sidi's crew to pay him a visit. No sooner were they on board his Manchava than the wily Ensign charged them with the intention of seizing the Honourable Company's property. They declared that they had no such intentions, but their protestations were not listened to. Two coolies who were on board the Manchava were, with their hands tied behind their backs, hoisted up to the vessel's yard. It is but natural that the torture soon drove them to admit that their Captain had intended to capture the Manchava.

Thorpe had at last gained his point. He took the Captain and two of his men prisoners on the pretext that they were pirates, and seized everything that he could find on their persons—namely, arms, money and papers. This action involved the English in great trouble. The Sidi demanded satisfaction, and it was but human that he claimed a larger amount than the losses actually sustained by his subject. He mentioned that they had been robbed of Rs. 2,600, whilst the Bombay Government declared that only Rs. 40 had been found in the boat. The offer of the latter sum filled the Sidi with indignation. Finally, the only satisfaction granted to the Sidi was that the Bombay Government deprived Ensign Thorpe of his commission. But the illusory nature of this satisfaction may be gathered from the fact that Thorpe was after some time reinstated.[3]

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[1] Orme, *Historical Fragments of Indostan*, pp. 57-8.

[2] Manchua for Manchava, a small vessel of 10 or 12 Candies. cf. Paper by J. Vaupell, Esq. in the VII of the *Bombay Geographical Transactions* referred to by Hamilton in his *New Account of the East Indies*, p. 78.

[3] Letter dated 26th January, 1676-7, referred to by Anderson, *The English in Western India*, p. 98.

Meanwhile, positive orders arrived from Delhi to deliver up the Moghul fleet to Sidi Kasim, and Sidi Sambal promised to carry out this order at the end of the fair season. Towards the end of April, 1677, the fleets of Sidi Kasim and Sidi Sambal arrived from Janjira in Bombay. From day to day Sidi Sambal promised to depart for Surat and to deliver up his command of the fleet to Sidi Kasim. As is but natural the Deputy Governor of Bombay was by no means hospitably disposed; but Sidi Sambal continued prolonging his negotiations till the monsoon set in, and it was no longer possible for his fleet to leave the harbour. "It was a proof of confidence," which the Deputy Governor received like a "becus hief",[1] says Mr. Anderson. Sidi Sambal was allowed to take up his usual residence at Mazgaon, where he and his people resided for a month or two without creating any disturbance, although the intrigues of these "cunning fellows" was probably an unfailing source of anxiety to the British. Sidi Kasim was given quarters near the Fort, apparently in the original Custom House, near the present Mint.[2]

The first intimation which the English received from Shivaji during that year was the threatening message concerning the Sidi's felony, which he had perpetrated on the inhabitants of the opposite shore. The real facts of the story as related by Orme can be reproduced briefly in a few words. A wicked Brahaman who resided on the opposite shore tried to instigate Sidi Sambal to seize several persons who were in favour of Shivaji. But the Sidi, having apprehensions of his own and not wishing to reveal himself as actively involved in the nefarious affair, committed himself only to the extent of financing the Brahman with money for hiring a boat and a party of men. The latter kidnapped four Brahamans who were transported to the Sidi's ships, and kept in close confinement. On an explanation being demanded by the English from the Sidi, he first denied his complicity in the transaction; but afterwards he revealed everything; and the result was that the boat's crew were imprisoned, three of their number were hanged, and others sent to St. Helena.

In October, 1676, with the return of the fair season, the restlessness of these unwelcome visitors gave rise to fresh alarms, partly caused by the animosity existing between the two Sidis. It has already been noticed before that Sidi Ali Kasim was appointed by the Moghul Emperor to supersede Sambal. Sidi

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[1] (Arabic) Bikuseef; (Persian) Becuseef — an obstinate fellow.
[2] cf. *Bombay Gazetteer*, XXVI, p. 510.

Sambal, in order to transport himself with his retinue and family to Surat, insisted on having two of the largest ships, and also asked for the release of his wives and children who were detained by Sidi Kasim at Janjira. For several months he had requested that they (should) be set free. Eventually, they were restored to him on the 5th October, 1676. Sidi Sambal received orders from the Surat Governor to surrender the ships to Sidi Kasim who was to take command of the fleet. "The old commander was willing to obey the august mandate," says Anderson, "but his officers and sailors were determined that he should not."

At their opposition Sidi Kasim was so enraged that he marched from his fort with 300 of his men, of whom 150 belonging to Subhan Kuli had come from Surat, and on Sunday attacked the quarters occupied by Sidi Sambal's followers, who were about the same in number as their enemy. With the best of the English garrison under Captain Keigwin, the Deputy Governor ordered his men to fall on both the parties, and it was only when all the followers of Sidi Ali Kasim had been disarmed and three English troopers were killed that peace was restored. "We suppose," wrote the Bombay Council to Surat, "it would be of great consequence that your worships made timely complaint of these outrages, not only to the Governor of Surat, but even to the King himself, and demanded large satisfaction for the death of our horses, and the disturbance of the peace of the inhabitants, and hindrance of our trade, merchants being frighted from coming hither by such hostile acts."

The Council then acted as mediators and at last managed to bring about a peaceful settlement between the two Sidis. Sidi Sambal was to have one of the Moghul's ships, and his family was to be restored to him. Sidi Kasim, after receiving everything else, hoisted his flags as admiral of both the fleets, and set sail in the beginning of November, 1677.[1]

"During the next four years," writes Mr. Anderson, "there are constant references to this most troublesome opponent (the Sidi); temporary agreements were made with him, and, being shortly afterwards broken, only served as an incitement to further enormities; unarmed soldiers of the Bombay garrison were cut down by the Pathans in the Mazgaon market; the native population was most cruelly harried."[2]

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[1] Orme, *Historical Fragments of Indostan*, pp. 64-6; Anderson, *The English in Western India*, pp. 80-1; From Bombay Council to Surat, 9th October, 1677 referred to by Edwardes in his *Rise of Bombay*, p. 130.

[2] cf. Edwardes, *Rise of Bombay*, p. 131.

But Sidi Kasim pursued a different policy from that of his predecessor in his capacity of commander of both the fleets. In order to win over the good-will of his officers he indulged in familiarities with them, and thus gyved himself effectively enough to be left ultimately at their mercy. He had quitted Bombay in November, 1677, and now continued cruising along the shore of "Concan" (Konkan), gaining little by pillage. The next year, in the month of March, the Sidis came to Danda-Rajpuri, and at the earnest intercession of the Moghul Governor of Surat they were allowed to make their stay in Bombay till the end of April. His smaller vessels were hauled ashore near Mazgaon, and the larger vessels were moored as close to it as they could lie.

Many of their men took up their abode in the town, and committed such atrocities on the Hindu inhabitants that several of the latter were compelled to leave the town. "Brahamins being the subject of their special aversion," remarks Anderson, "were sometimes seized by them and subjected to impurities which no penances could expiate." Meanwhile, in order to avenge those indignities inflicted on the Brahamans, Moro Punt, an officer of Shivaji and himself a Brahaman, determined with Shivaji's consent to burn the Sidi's two fleets which were lying either in or near Bombay harbour, and which were chiefly instrumental in frustrating Shivaji's attempt of capturing Janjira. Daulat Khan marched with his men to Kalyan and requested leave of the Portuguese to cross Thana, intending to cross the Mahim channel and advance towards Mazgaon through the island, where he expected to ravage the Sidi's quarters and to destroy the vessels drawn ashore on account of the impending attack.

At Bombay, the alarm was by no means small. The English had indirectly to help the Sidis, because their own harbour was in immediate danger. A garrison was quartered at Mazgaon, from whence they proceeded to Kalyan and made ready to oppose Shivaji's forces at Mahim. But fortunately Daulat Khan did not succeed in obtaining the permission of the Portuguese to cross Thana. The Bombay Government had very often afforded protection to the Sidis against Shivaji, and this time it was done more openly; yet Shivaji, wise as he was, refrained from publicly showing his resentment, because "the wants of Bombay had continually brought money into his country," says Orme, "and a proof of the influence of this consideration soon after occurred".

The Governor of Chaul, who had the title of Subedar, claimed money from Petit, one of the Company's factors, who delayed payment of the sum. He also learnt of the disappointment Shivaji had met with in his attempt to burn the Sidi's ships, and hence, seizing the opportunity, he captured the boats belonging to the Bombay Government, which at that time happened to lie for trade purposes in ports under his jurisdiction. To punish the gratuitous insult inflicted by the Subedar the Council of Bombay sent four boats and sixty Europeans, who brought back most of the boats which had been seized by him.

At the close of the year 1677 we find once more Shivaji furiously plying his batteries upon Janjira, whilst Sidi Kasim, being unable to pay his men at Surat, was obliged to protract his stay in the Bombay harbour.[1]

For seven long years Shivaji had been making great efforts to increase his fleet so as to be a match for the Sidis, and by this time had gathered the respectable number of twenty-two masted grabs and forty gallivats.[2] On the high seas, of course, these vessels could not give a very good account of themselves against the great ships of the fleet of Sidi Kasim.[3]

Shivaji was of opinion that his repeated failure to capture Janjira and the inroads of the Sidis into his territory were to a large extent due to the ease with which the English allowed the Sidis to take shelter in the Bombay harbour. In consequence, he resolved to compel the English Government to a stricter form of neutrality. For that purpose he now employed strategy. He had already fixed on Henry and Kenary as a convenient place for striking at the Sidi. And his strategy consisted of nothing else than attacking these places.

Both the little island Henry and its twin sister Kenary were also eagerly coveted by the English, who in order to gain possession of them were ready to embark upon an aggressive war. But up to now they had not deemed it necessary to maintain on these islands a guard-house or any other fortification. This made it easy for Shivaji to capture Kenary. Bombay was only made

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[1] Orme, *Historical Fragments of Indostan*, pp. 67-72, Anderson, *The English in Western India*, p. 81.

[2] Gallivat for galabat, is described by Hamilton as a large row boat with two masts rarely exceeding seventy tons; by Vaupell it is said to be of a hundred to a hundred and fifty candies, to carry two sails, and to have been ordinarily used for practical purposes. This note is referred to by Anderson, *The English in Western India*, p. 78.

[3] cf. Strachey, *Keigwin's Rebellion*, p. 37.

aware of the impending danger when it was too late. At that time the English possessed no gallivats, and, therefore, the *Revenge Frigate* with three 'shibars',[1] manned with forty Europeans of the garrison, were sent to prevent the landing of more Marathas on Kenary. The English had decided to act at once, for they thought that it was high time to check Shivaji, who was gaining ground everywhere—on sea as well as on land. They were therefore not a little alarmed. Sidi Kasim was equally anxious to preserve his stronghold at Janjira, and, as the Moghul could not wish for anything else, this was the first time that the Sidi received ungrudgingly from the Surat Government the necessary help to equip his fleet.

He landed his force, which consisted of two large ships, three frigates of three masts, fifteen stout gallivats and 700 excellent soldiers, at Bombay on the 10th of November, 1679, and proposed to Captain Keigwin a combined assault on Kenary. Under these circumstances the English, in conjunction with their new allies the Sidis, attempted to eject the Marathas. But Keigwin saw through the designs of the Sidi, who ultimately meant to keep the island for himself. If the Sidi succeeded in doing so, Keigwin rightly thought that the condition of the English would be further endangered. These considerations therefore led him to evade giving any assistance in this enterprise.

This excessive caution and diplomatic prudence of the English were tantamount to sheer timidity in the eyes of the natives, and "mortified the factors", who were obliged to listen, as Anderson says, to some such language as the following: "Why vaunts your nation? What victories have you achieved? What has your sword done? Who ever felt your power? What do you possess? We see the Dutch outdo you; the Portuguese have behaved themselves like men; everyone runs you down; you can scarce keep Bombain and will you pretend to be men of war or cope with our princes?"[2] Besides this, Sidi Kasim was not nonplussed, because the English did not render him assistance. From his two ships he directed for several days a cannonade against the island of Kenary. The fire was returned by Shivaji, but no appreciable effect was produced by either side on the other. This was the state of affairs between the English, Shivaji and the Sidis at the end of the year 1679.[3]

[1] Shibar or Shebar for Sibad is a large trading vessel; cf. Anderson, *The English in Western India*, p. 78.

[2] Fryers, Letter VII, Chapter I referred to by Anderson, p. 81.

[3] Orme, *Historical Fragments of Indostan*, pp. 77-84.

It was the 9th of January, 1680. The Sidi's batteries against Kenary had not ceased firing. Suddenly, the Sidi, without giving the slightest notice of his intentions to the English Captains, landed his fleet at Henry on the plea of fortifying it. On the 27th January Daulat Khan came out with his entire fleet, and engaged the Sidis for four hours in a close fight, with the result that he lost four of his grabs, several vessels and about five hundred men. On the other hand, the Sidi did not lose a single vessel, and his casualities did not exceed ten men killed. The engagement clearly proved the superiority of the Sidi's fleet over that of Shivaji.

Events now wore a gloomy aspect for the English. It seemed almost impossible to maintain or pretend to maintain neutrality. In this embarrassment negotiations were opened with Shivaji's ambassador, who had come for that purpose from Rairi, to obviate the perplexity of the situation. Lest the ambassador be led to believe that the success of the Sidis was viewed with an approving eye by the Bombay Council, the English recalled their own fleet. Next, in order to counteract and put a stop to the fresh negotiations between the English and Shivaji's ambassador, the Sidi sent some of the grabs captured from the Marathas to be sold in Bombay. The permission not being granted, on the 27th February, the Sidi entered the harbour with his whole fleet, landed on the south shore of Bombay, burnt towns and villages, and seized nearly a thousand inhabitants. But these hostile demonstrations did not have the results which the Sidi expected from them ; for about the middle of March, 1680, a treaty was concluded between Shivaji and the English by which Kenary remained in possession of the Marathas, who in return were to leave Bombay without committing any act of molestation. The English bound themselves not to allow the Sidis to winter in the harbour, unless the latter promised to abstain from any depredation in Shivaji's Kurlas.[1]

We are inclined to believe that the neutrality of the Bombay Government was as necessary to the Sidis and the Marathas as to the Company's commercial interests. Little could it profit Shivaji to drive the English to the side of the Sidis by too much goading, and on the other hand there were likewise good reasons for the Sidi to fear that an active alliance between the English and Shivaji would result in the Bombay harbour being closed to him. Here we must not fail to point out that the time had now

[1] Orme, *Historical Fragments of Indostan*, pp. 87-8.

come for the English to profit by their recent experiences and to take appropriate measures to avert similar perils in future. The English should have clearly seen that both Shivaji and the Sidi had gained a firm foothold at the very mouth of the Bombay harbour. This fact ought to have brought home to them the necessity of strengthening their position in Bombay, or at least of making their fortifications as invulnerable to attack as a mason's skill was capable of. But nothing of the sort was done, and their apathy in the matter implicated them in further troubles as we shall see later on.

Once more, on the 28th April, 1680, we find the Deputy Governor and Council subjected to annoyance by the Sidis. The Sidi, who had by this time ceased attacking Shivaji, sent some of his vessels and soldiers to harbour at Mazgaon. In the meanwhile, an event happened which went a great way towards encouraging the insolence of the Sidi's people at Bombay. It was an increase of duties on all European imported goods from 2 to 3½ per cent. This increase was decreed by the Surat Government in obedience to the order of the Moghul Emperor. The result was that the Sidis began to administer justice in their own way to the inhabitants. With great effrontery they brought some prisoners, who had been seized in Shivaji's districts, and offered them for sale in the Bombay harbour. The English Government discovered twenty-one of these unfortunate beings and at once released them.

Again, on the 4th of May, 1680, an action took place between the English and the Sidis. The Sidis had made an attempt to introduce contraband goods in Bombay, and on being prevented by the authorities from passing the goods they attacked the guards at the Custom House. In this affray several persons were wounded on both sides. The next day their leader, Sidi Kasim, sailed with his main fleet into the harbour, and anchored off the fort. The discharge of a few guns from the Bombay harbour were enough to bring him to a more sober frame of mind, but Sambhaji, who had succeeded his father Shivaji, was so annoyed at the protection which the English had frequently though grudgingly given to the Sidis that he also threatened an assault on and an invasion of Bombay.

A few months later, at midnight on the 1st of August, 1680, a party of Marathas landed in the dark on the island of Kenary. The Sidis, apprised of the fact, hastened to the island, and captured and killed the majority of their number. Eighty Maratha heads were brought in baskets to Mazgaon, where Sidi Kasim

was preparing to exhibit them on poles along the shore, but he was prevented by the Council from making such a ghastly display of barbarity. That John Child managed to prevent such an insult being perpetrated redounds to his credit; but matters continued to go on from bad to worse. For want of money, the Sidi's fleet stayed in the harbour till the 22nd of December, when it sailed away for Vengurla. [1]

The English Government in a fit of despair applied to the Surat Governor and asked him to exert his influence with the Sidis, since it now seemed impossible to remain on terms of peace with them. In this despondency of the Bombay Government Sidi Kasim saw an excellent opportunity for looting the English. On the plea that the English were guilty of some trumped-up crime he seized the Company's goods at Surat, ill-treated the servants in the street, and beset the factory. Thus the English in Surat and Mr. Rolt their president were placed in a most unpleasant plight. There was only one course left open to the President, and that was to bribe the Sidi with an enormous present of Rupees Thirty Thousand, [2] "which if spent," wrote Strachey, "on the strengthening of Bombay would have gone far towards putting the English in a position to defy such a bully". This at last induced the Surat Governor to send a mandate to the Sidis to behave properly and also to reduce the Custom to the old rate of 2 per cent. But whether the last part of the transaction, says Bruce, was carried out, is not known. The behaviour of the Sidis was the same as before. Such was the troublesome state of affairs during the Deputy Governorship of John Child. [3]

In 1681, the same old story was repeated. Mazgaon was once more a scene of plunder, outrages and insolent captures.

Elated with these series of successes, which the Sidis had gained over the Marathas, the Bombay gallivats sailed along the shore of the Kurlas, carried off the inhabitants as prisoners, and treated them without pity, until one of them agreed to fetch a ransom of Rs. 1,800. All these events took place in Bombay, where the Sidis, besides taking up a temporary residence whenever they found it convenient to do so, had gone so far

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[1] Orme, *Historical Fragments of Indostan*, pp. 96-8.

[2] cf. Strachey, *Keigwin's Rebellion*, p. 46. Strachey referring to Bruce's Account says that the Dutch and the French had also contributed in this affair in order to have their Custom duties restored to 2 per cent., Bruce, II, p. 456.

[3] *Ibid.*

as to purchase houses and to establish their families. Sambhaji's Governor remonstrated with the Council. A few days later, the Sidis brought one of the large vessels which they had captured in the Kurlas, but which was immediately rescued by one of the guard-boats.

Some pretence or other was always sought as an excuse for harassing the English. For example, Sidi Kasim, after a lapse of sixteen months, demanded justice in respect of the release of the twenty-one prisoners, whom the English had obliged him to surrender the previous year. But a conflict was avoided through the intervention of the Governor. Moreover, during the outburst of the monsoon several boats belonging to the Bombay Government, which were sent out to fetch supplies, were attacked by the Sidis. But on the whole the Sidis continued to remain comparatively quiet till the end of October, when, being pressed by the Bombay Council to stop their hostilities within the harbour, they answered by daily holding up the trading vessels of the Marathas, and even went so far as to detain a Bombay boat carrying his own pass. "All this while he (Sidi Kasim) occupied the town of Mazagong," says Orme, "and every advantage of the port without control."

Not a single year elapsed without frequent skirmishes among the Sidis, the English and the Marathas, and the year 1682 was no exception to the rule. Both the Sidis and the Marathas were guilty of gross outrages. Sambhaji was so distrustful of the English that he stopped supplying Bombay with grain from his territories. The Portuguese also found an opportunity to annoy the English so that in Bombay the price of the provisions was tripled.[1]

In the beginning of November, 1682, the rumour obtained currency that Daulat Khan, the Maratha General, had received positive orders from Sambhaji to invade Bombay without fail, before the Sidis made their seasonal settlement there. But the news proved to be false on the arrival of an ambassador from Sambhaji, who had come to inform the English of certain intelligence he had received concerning Aurangzeb to the effect that the Moghuls were preparing to spring a surprise on Bombay.

But the ambassador fortunately or unfortunately became a witness of the very acts of which he complained. In spite of the Council's expostulation, the Sidi's gallivats entered the Pen, and

[1] Orme, *Historical Fragments of Indostan*, pp. 107-9.

brought with them two hundred prisoners to Mazgaon. The English were obliged to guard the gates with all alertness, lest the enemy force an entrance by surprise.[1]

After this, in the year 1683, the peace existing between the English and the Sidis was again in danger of being broken. John Child, about whom we shall speak in some detail later on, was at that time at Surat. Mr. Charles Ward, of whom we are speaking for the first time in our history, the Deputy Governor of Bombay, found himself between the devil and the deep sea. From now onwards we find him in a series of tribulations, escaping one only to find himself enmeshed in another. But before coming to the narration of these events, we must not fail to mention that the fleet of the Sidis, having wintered in the Bombay harbour for several years, had caused a scarcity of provisions. In a letter, dated the 22nd September, 1683, Mr. C. Ward wrote, "unless some speedy remedy be used to prevent their harbouring with us, our souldiers will never be able to live on their pay, having often made several complaints".[2]

To continue with the events connected with our history, on the 28th of May, 1683, two English soldiers[3] were "most insolently sett upon" by the Sidis in the Mazgaon market. The cause of this quarrel is not known; but the result was that one of the two victims, Edward Harper, two days after died of injuries, though the other man recovered. This incident threw the whole garrison into a fever of rage, and they made use of Ward for ventilating their fury. Immediate retribution was demanded of Mr. Ward. It seemed that the Sidis' outrages had remained too long unchecked and unnoticed. To save the honour of the British nation it was absolutely essential immediately to avenge in an exemplary manner this particular instance of the contemptible behaviour of the Sidis. But it was as dangerous to exaggerate the importance of the incident as to allow it to pass by unperceived. In their fit of rage, it was likely that they would have caused much bloodshed, had not their prudence

[1] Orme, *Historical Fragments of Indostan*, pp. 113-7; Anderson, *The English in Western India*, p. 83.

[2] From C. Ward at Surat to the President and Council at Bombay, 22nd September, 1683, *Appendix*, No. 14.

[3] Orme in his *Historical Fragments of Indostan*, p. 121, says that the two Englishmen were unarmed, and Strachey follows him on p. 71. The records, however, make no mention of the word 'unarmed'. Hence we suspect that Orme as a soldier, in order to protect the honour of the Company, inserts this word.

predominated to prevent them from committing themselves to such rashness.

Ward demanded from the Sidi that the culprits should be handed over to the English. The Sidi flatly refused to deliver them up, and privately conveyed them to Surat, "where wee hope," says Ward, "the President will endeavour to have satisfaction with which to appease our souldiers". But the records do not tell us whether any satisfaction was obtained or not, either by the President or Mr. Ward. We only learn from Strachey that under the leadership of Messrs. Fletcher, Wilkins and Henry, the soldiers decided to take vengeance on the Sidi, since the Deputy Governor was afraid to face him. They were, however, induced to return, but remained in a half mutinous state.[1]

Such was the course of events that happened during the months of May and June. The wrath of the English had by this time risen fever-high. Ward's unremitting efforts to induce the Sidi to deliver up the murderers were of no avail.

On June 30th, Bombay was still in a state of ferment. The unruly feeling had not yet died out when the occurrence of another event gave rise to a fresh outbreak of resentment. One of the Company's ships, *The Berkeley Castle,* arrived from England. Her commander, Captain Consett, gave a party on board the ship. The topic after dinner was the Sidi's insolence and Ward's incompetence to obtain redress. Allusion was also made to the Deputy Governor's prohibition to buy slaves from the Sidis, lest Sambhaji might be offended. The Captain excited with wine and fury threw prudence to the winds, and rowed in his pinnace to the Sidi's ship, which was lying close by. With two companions he went on board the Sidi's ship. The three of them heated with wine hardly knew what they were doing, for they started abusing Sidi Kasim himself in insolent intemperate language. But Sidi Kasim got as excited as his visitors, and ordered them to be thrown over-board. Captain Consett was wounded in the leg, and with great difficulty managed to make his way back to *The Berkeley Castle*. Filled with indignation he fired "nine pieces Ordinances" at the Sidi's flag-ship.

It is difficult to decide who was responsible for this affair.

[1] From C. Ward to the President and Council at Surat, 22nd September, 1683, *Appendix*, No. 14; Orme, *Historical Fragments of Indostan*, p. 121; Strachey, *Keigwin's Rebellion*, pp. 71-2. (On comparing Orme's account with the records we find he has mentioned words here and there which do not seem to us to be correct.)

But the whole blame was thrown on the Deputy Governor's shoulders. When the news reached Surat, it threw Child into a panic. It was feared that the Sidis would at once attack the factory; but nothing of the sort happened. All the same the English had no longer the courage to insist on it that the Sidi should make reparation for the unprovoked attack on the two English soldiers in Mazgaon. The Sidi's fleet left the Bombay harbour at the end of October.[1]

"In 1684, Mr. Joshua Child was honoured with the title of Baronet," wrote Alexander Hamilton, "by the powerful motive of the Company's money to the King, (he) got the Commission of General, which so puffed him up that he condemned all laws human and divine."[2]

At the end of the previous year, as we have already seen, the English and the Sidis had not parted from each other in a friendly manner. But towards the end of April, 1684, Sidi Kasim sailed again into the Bombay harbour. He attempted to pass through the Fort of Bombay as he usually did without ceremony. But this time he was called to order. Before allowing him to pass through, the customary forms of civility were demanded of him. On arrival at his ordinary winter-quarters (Mazgaon) he met with a reception which was more than a surprise. It shocked him to see that all the landing places were well-manned and fortified. His surprise was still greater when he was told that they would not be allowed to land on the island, except for the purpose of laying in the necessary provision of water.

Annoyed at this cold reception given him by the English, he turned his attention towards his own island Kenary. But he found that he was no longer master of that place either, and he had to depend on Mazgaon for his supply of water. Meanwhile, the records state that they had sent to "the Siddy's Island that lyes in the chopps of the Bay" two of their men who daily cruised in the gallivats of the Sidis to prevent the English ships falling into the hands of Sambhaji. "The Siddy," wrote the President, "promised all assistance to your servants and that he would serve us himself in this matter with all diligence and care."[3]

But the Sidi did not carry out his promise, for he was greatly

[1] Orme, *Historical Fragments of Indostan*, pp. 121-2; cf. *Bombay Gazetteer*, p. 511; Strachey, *Keigwin's Rebellion*, pp. 72-3.
[2] Hamilton, *New Account of the East Indies*, *I*, p. 190.
[3] From the President, 10th April, 1689, *Appendix*, No. 15.

annoyed at his helplessness, and under a false pretext he carried off two men, who had been sent by the English with the purpose of watching Kenary, and delivered them up to the English Presidency at Surat. But after the departure of the Sidi, the English realised that they had delayed too long in adopting stern measures.

After a lapse of several years, Bombay experienced untold relief from stress and strife. The inhabitants could carry on their daily occupations without fear of outrages and riots. From this moment Bombay was no more the headquarters of the Sidis' winter sports. Being relieved of these unwelcome Sidi visitors, the fear of danger from another source was dispelled, since the ousting of the Sidis had the effect of making the Marathas give up all thoughts of an attack on the island.[1]

In a letter dated 27th February, 1686, addressed to His Excellency and Council, the English are once more informed of Sidī Kasim's departure from Danda-Rajpuri to capture the Fort of Kalyan. It was expected that it would fall into his hands. This put the English in a fright as can be gathered from the following words: "If so, he will cutt off all commerce from Cundree, which island will fall into his hands of course, for want of provision, and with the event of it may be God only knows."[2] But their apprehensions as regards the capture of Kalyan were soon set at rest, for two days later they learned that the Sidi had raised the siege at Kalyan on the previous day, and had gone off to Danda-Rajpuri in order to join in the pursuit of Prince Egbert (Akbar), who had rebelled against his father, the Moghul Emperor. It was therefore hoped that there would be no more trouble in the neighbourhood during the year.[3]

From a further letter dated 7th and 8th March, 1686, it appears that a messenger from Sidi Kasim brought news to the English of his landing at Fatehpur, where he met Sambhaji's party which was helping Prince Egbert in his flight. In the fight which followed he lost four of his gallivats, four hundred of his men were killed, and he himself received four wounds, and barely escaped being killed or captured by the enemy.[4] But afterwards

[1] Orme, *Historical Fragments of Indostan*, pp. 134-5; cf. Strachey, *Keigwin's Rebellion*, pp. 97-8.

[2] To His Excellency and Council, 27th February, 1686, *Appendix*, No. 21.

[3] To His Excellency and Council, 29th February, 1686, *Appendix*, No. 22.

[4] From His Excellency and Council, 7th and 8th March, 1686, *Appendix*, No. 20.

he managed to seize some forts from Sambhaji Raja, and one of them contained a very great gun which the Sidi's officers wanted to transport to Janjira with the help of the English; but the Deputy Governor evaded to do so, and awaited instructions from Surat.[1]

After having had such successes at Danda-Rajpuri and at other places over Sambhaji, from the information the English had received the Sidi thought of attacking Kenary. If the Sidi succeeded in his project, his victory would be detrimental to English interests. It was therefore decided to send a man to Sambhaji and make a proposal to him to give the said Kenary into their hands, till Sambhaji was master of it. Besides, they were willing to accept any other proposal from Sambhaji; but it was necessary to act immediately in the affair, or it would be too late to do anything at all.[2]

But nothing was done in the matter, for a short extract from a letter, dated 13th November, incidentally refers to "the great noise of the Siddees victory over the Savajee (the Marathas), which puts a stop to the merchants traffique at present".[3] A victory which caused such a hindrance to the British trade at Bombay cannot but be the capture of the island of Khanderi (Kenary).

[1] From the President at Bombay to Surat, 6th October, 1686, *Appendix*, No. 19.
[2] From Bombay to Surat, 18th October, 1686, *Appendix*, No. 18.
[3] From Bombay to Surat, 13th November, 1686, *Appendix*, No. 17.

CHAPTER III

SIDIS' INVASION OF BOMBAY

(1689-1690)

The year 1689 is one of the most eventful years in the history of the relations between the Sidis of Janjira and the British of Bombay, for during that year British interests suffered very much in India. The British nation suffered dire disgrace, and they held that the Company's misconduct was the chief cause of it. To begin with, from the official records one gathers the impression that the measures taken by Sir John Child were good, wise and prudent; so that viewed in the light of the official version his policy, far from deserving blame, is worthy of praise. But in reality such is not the case; as a matter of fact his policy proved disastrous to the British and their interests. His failure alone would therefore prove that he was not a wise administrator. But apart from his failure, it is our firm belief that Sir John Child was lacking both the intellectual acumen and the moral balance that go to make up the statesman.

Who was Sir John Child? It is not an easy task to form an estimate of his character. Bruce, the Company's annalist, has nothing to say against him; for, as we have already pointed out, no individual's name stands in higher esteem in the Company's records. There he appears to us as an individual deserving the highest praise. But what was he in reality? From the age of ten to eighteen he lived with his uncle at Rajapore. One of his first public acts was to bring to light his uncle's dishonesty and to get him dismissed from his office of the Superintendent of the factory at Rajapore. It is not our intention to blame him for this; yet it may be reasonably questioned whether this display of public integrity was inspired by unselfish motives; for he succeeded in securing for himself his uncle's office. Anyhow this shows that he had not those delicate feelings that would have made other men in similar circumstances anxious to hide themselves from the public gaze. On the contrary he played a prominent part in the transactions of the Company, for he eventually became the Governor of Bombay.

Persons are not wanting who maintain that he was lacking in nobility of character. Raynal styles him "avaricious, turbu-

lent and savage" ; and he traces to his acts the calamities in which the English were involved.[1] We feel strongly inclined to be of the same opinion, for it is certain that he was a man who was carried away by ambition ; and when his own interests were at stake, he made little of all laws, human and divine. But his real character will little by little be seen in its true colours, as we shall give in their sequence the events of that disastrous year 1689.

In a letter dated the 10th of February, we find that the English had some apprehensions that the Sidis were preparing for their first invasion of Bombay, and hence they were constantly on the alert. According to reliable information which the English had received, the Sidi's fleet at Danda-Rajpuri consisted of seventy small vessels and eleven ships. To get an inkling of the Sidi's intentions John Child sent several letters to the Sidi, and received very civil answers thereto. But in spite of these friendly exchanges between the English Governor and the Sidi, the people of the island were in great fear. So convinced were they that a great danger was threatening the island, that many of them left their homes and settled down elsewhere.[2]

The letters and documents of this period portray in vivid colours the anxiety which had seized the people. The outlook was everywhere most unpromising. At home the English were the victims of pestilence and dissensions ; abroad they had to face a multitude of opponents : the Sidis, the Malabaris, the Marathas, the Moghuls and the Portuguese.[3]

It was publicly known that the Sidi was making great preparations, and for that purpose had made ready his whole fleet, and enrolled a force of 8,000 men. Therefore, the English had perforce to write to the Sidi to tell him of the rumours of his projected invasion. They informed him that if his fleet put to sea, Sir John Child would assume that his intentions were hostile, and would look upon him as an enemy. "This letter was sent the other day," wrote Mr. Child, "by a small boate of the island, and by a cunning trusty fellow."

They waited for an answer, and in the meantime kept everything in readiness both for defence and offence. Here it may be well to remark that the preparations for defence and offence were

[1] L'abbé Raynal quoted by Anderson, *The English in Western India.*

[2] From John Child & Co. to the Court of Directors, 10th February, 1689, *Appendix*, No. 23.

[3] Edwardes, *Rise of Bombay*, p. 135.

not such as the official records would have us believe. Anderson is of opinion that the English Governor had neglected to strengthen the fortifications of Bombay, although the Court of Directors had so frequently reminded him that it was necessary.[1]

Nor should we too readily believe that Sir John Child was as bold in deeds as he was in words; it may really be doubted whether he seriously intended to carry out the threats with which he meant to scare the Sidi; for in connection with the above-mentioned events he writes: "Wee are of the mind to forbear the Siddy, if well wee may, till wee may see what may be done at Court." It is true that he did not cease to show himself a very brave man as far as threats are concerned, for in continuation of the same letter he adds that by the time he received instructions from the Court, he heard no good news from the Sidi: "wee think of nothing less now then goeing briskly to worke and letting the Mogull and all his hungry Courtiers know and feel the force of your Armes which they think but meanly of at present." But these ringing words have their counterpart in the sincere hope expressed by the Governor that he may be spared the necessity of carrying out his threats; and this he hoped for two reasons: "because of your Honors constitution and the Mogulls present greatness."[2]

Before coming to the event with which we are concerned, namely the invasion of Bombay by the Sidi, let us briefly point out the various circumstances that were chiefly instrumental in bringing it about. First of all there is Ovington's assertion that Aurangzeb had instigated the Sidi to invade Bombay.[3] But the records prove that the Sidi's invasion was entirely the result of his own independent scheming. In a letter from the President to the factors at Surat, we read, "he (the Sidi) never came by the King's order (as George Weldon can attest he had from good hands in the Court) but voluntarily of himselfe". This view is corroborated by a remark made in this same connection by Mukhtear Khan, who envied the glory the Sidi would acquire by taking the place. He represented to the King (Aurangzeb) that the place was difficult of capture, because in reality it[4] was of far greater strength than it was supposed to be, and likewise made him (Aurangzeb) "hinder both reliefe and money coming to

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[1] cf. Anderson, *The English in Western India*, p. 115.

[2] From John Child to the Factors at Surat, 10th February, 1688-9, *Appendix*, No. 23.

[3] Ovington, *A Voyage to Surat*, p. 151.

him (the Sidi)".[1] This clearly proves that Aurangzeb had nothing to do with the invasion.

The real motive which inspired the Sidi was that he realised that the English were not in a position to defend themselves; he deemed that "the purchase of the place through our weakness would be very feazable, which he had gine a great way".[2] Mr. Weldon, in his report on the state of affairs at Bombay after the Sidi's departure, asserted that it was the ruinous and neglected state of the fortifications that moved the Sidi's spirits to disembark his troops rather than the order of the Moghul Emperor. Had the fortifications been sufficiently strong, the Company would have obtained far more advantageous terms than were actually granted by the Firman. But such conditions as they obtained were due to the jealousy of Mukhtear Khan. It was to him that the English were indebted more than to anybody else. For Bombay would surely have been taken had not the jealousy of Mukhtear Khan guided him to influence Aurangzeb not to interfere in the matter. Such was the defenceless state of the island.[3] Another fact which goes to prove the same point is mentioned in a letter from Surat to the Deputy Governor of Bombay, dated 30th June, 1690. "He (the Sidi) has shewn us an example," wrote Mr. Harris, "and taught us otherwise than to think ourselves secure when we are not, therefore hereafter wee ought to be the more vigilant and carefull and endeavour to strengthen ourselves on that island."[4] All this clearly shows that Aurangzeb had nothing to do with the invasion. The Sidi acted on his own initiative—and, it must be admitted, not without provocation on Sir John Child's part.

News reached Sidi Yakut's ears that his whole fleet laden with cloth and corn had been carried away to Bombay by the English. The Sidi wrote a letter to the Governor asking him to release and send back his fleet. But his request was not listened to; an insolent message was sent to him by way of reply, and the fleet was unloaded at Bombay. Such was the policy adopted by Sir John Child to further his ambitious scheme of strengthening the position of the British in Bombay.

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[1] From the President at Bombay to Surat, 15th January, 1690-1, *Appendix*, No. 30.

[2] *Ibid.*

[3] Weldon's Report referred to by Bruce, *Annals, III*, p. 96.

[4] From B. Harris at Surat to the Deputy Governor at Bombay (George Cook), 30th June, 1690, *Appendix*, No. 28. Another account dealing with the same point is mentioned in *Appendix*, No. 29.

But Sidi Yakut did not acquiesce in the forcible detention of his fleet. He continued to clamour for its release, and threatened the British that if his fleet were not set free before the 11th of February, he would certainly be upon Bombay by the 14th of the same month. His requests and his threats were not listened to by John Child. Finally, the Sidi's patience was exhausted, and exasperated by Sir John Child's obstinate refusal to listen to him, he, on the 14th of February, 1689,[1] landed with a force of 25,000[2] men at Sewree, to encounter which the English General had at his disposal 2,500 men, so that the enemy's strength was exactly in the ratio of ten to one. General Child, deceived as he always was in his expectations, relied on the strength of his forces, and did not make any preparations to receive these unwelcome guests. Sidi Yakut Khan landed at midnight, and the redoubts where he landed fired a gun to give the alarm and retired with precipitation.

At one o'clock in the morning three guns from the Castle apprised the inhabitants of the danger. Such was the fright that prevailed at that time that women, both English and Indian, ran half-naked to the fort. Their misery was greater still, when they were obliged to wait at the gate till the day dawned. The next morning, twelve hours after their landing at Sewree, the Sidis marched towards Mazgaon—a fort of fourteen guns and quite close to the Bombay Castle. At the sight of the enemy the English made haste to decamp, and so great was their hurry that in deserting the Fort of Mazgaon they left behind them ten chests of treasure which contained £1,000 each. They also left behind four chests of new arms, and abandoned fourteen cannon, two mortars, some powder, shots and shells.

Mr. Hamilton, who has given us a graphic account of this precipitate flight, rightly wonders why all this money and such a vast amount of ammunition were sacrificed, and left in the hands of the enemy, who gained possession of them without striking a blow. Who will say that he had no good reasons to feel surprised at such a disgraceful lack of courage? But what is more wonderful still is that the Governor, Sir John Child, was never called upon by the Court of Directors to account for this behaviour of his in the whole affair.

[1] Ovington in his *Voyage to Surat*, p. 152 says, "The Siddy therefore in the year 1688......" It is now proved from the records that this year is not correct. The real date and year is 14th February, 1689 as mentioned by Hamilton, *New Account of the East Indies*, I, p. 221.

[2] *Ibid.*, p. 152 says there were 20,000 men.

Naturally this cowardly behaviour of the English further emboldened Sidi Yakut to dispatch a party of his men towards Mahim, where they plundered the poor peasants to their hearts' content. Up to that moment nothing was done by the English Governor to relieve the sufferings and the cruel treatment which his subjects had to undergo at the hands of the Sidi. The latter, who saw no reason for restraining the eagerness of his soldiers, so long as the English did not make the least sign of protest, thought of capturing the Mahim Fort; for he surmised that it had been deserted like the rest. Nor was he wrong, for the English garrison had left the fort, and sailed away in their boats, even before the vanguard of the enemy had come within sight of the walls. Sidi Yakut took possession of the fort, hoisted his flag on the Castle, and made it his headquarters.

The next day, that is on the 15th of February, 1689, the Sidi made his appearance on the Mazgaon hills. Then at last General Child realised that it was high time for him to put a stop to the enemy's advance. Something had to be done, and he conceived the following plan. First of all he gave orders that all persons on whom the English authorities could lay hands should be pressed into their service. Among these improvised soldiers was Mr. Hamilton, the narrator of these events. Next, he called one Captain Pean, and ordered him to take two companies each of about seventy men. With these troops he was to march to the hills, where the Sidi was playing havoc, in order to prevent him from doing further damage. Sir John Child also appointed one Munro to be Pean's Lieutenant.

Accordingly, the little band marched in good order to within gun-shot of the enemy. But already on their way a quarrel had arisen, as to who was entrusted with the leadership of the expedition. Strange though it may appear to us, the Lieutenant took it upon himself to advise the Captain to march in platoons in order to break up the enemy's forces. But the Captain looked upon this advice as an insult. He chose to order his men to spread themselves as much as they could and to begin firing according to his directions. Munro saw the danger of this plan; but nothing could dissuade Pean from his project. So Munro's advice was not listened to, though this advice was very wise. Perhaps Munro knew by experience that in a hand to hand fight the English were no match for the Sidi's fighting men.

Sidi Yakut Khan at once grasped the weak point of the English formation, and ordered his men to rush full pelt upon the advancing broken line with all speed. The Captain soon per-

ceived the danger to which he was exposed. He promptly made up his mind as to what to do. He turned his back upon the advancing foe, and, without giving a thought to his men whose lives he had put in jeopardy, ran for all he was worth, and never stopped till he reached the Portuguese Church. Poor Munro, perhaps more courageous than prudent, tried to stop the advancing enemy by rallying his followers around him. But to his surprise he found that all had deserted him, except thirteen or fourteen stout fellows, who were not even given the choice to surrender to the enemy, for they were simply cut to pieces.

Thus, scarcely striking a blow the Sidi's soldiers gained possession of the whole island, except the Bombay Castle and the territory half a mile to the south of it. He raised his batteries on Dongri (Dungri) hill, and placed one within two hundred yards of the Castle. As if all this were not sufficient, he put four great guns in the Custom House, commonly called the India House, and raised one more battery at the "Lady's House". Many of the English were not a little dismayed to find that they could hardly stir in or out of the Castle.[1]

These events took place in the month of February, 1689, and the Sidi, once in possession of the greater part of the island, was not in a hurry to depart. He stayed for several months, and during the monsoon managed to obtain supplies from "Senior Padre de Pandara" (the head of the Jesuit College at Bandra), who took great care to have the stores carefully conveyed to the Sidi's army. In this connection the question naturally arises whether the Senior Padre supplied the Sidis' food supplies of his own free will, or whether he was acting under the constraint of fear. Ovington states that the Senior Padre had exhorted the Sidis to exterminate all the Protestants in the island. In order to help him to carry out his pious design, the Padre promised to supply the Sidi with all the resources at his disposal. At the same time he stipulated that when the English (Protestants) were driven off the island, the churches and their properties should be handed over to him. We find in a letter addressed at the close of the war, dated the 15th January, 1690-1, the following remark: "Wee had bin basely dealt with by many of the Inhabitants and more particularly by the Jesuits of Bandora who had given the Siddy great assistance all the lands in general were seized on for your Honrs use, as well of those that were not." The English seized all the lands owned or occupied by

[1] Hamilton, *New Account of the East Indies*, I, pp. 220-6.

them, but deferred final decision on the subject till the President's arrival from Surat, when he would judge of the claims of those people and restore their lands, "which wee question not will be just to them and honble on your side".[1] It is also said that during the Sidis' invasion of Bombay, a Parsi by name Rustom Dorabji, a person of great influence, had assisted the English with a body of Kolis to repel them out of the island.[2]

It is not easy to determine what part the Senior Padre played in the Sidis' invasion of Bombay; but one thing is very clear, and this is the complete triumph of the Sidi. Sir John Child himself bears witness to this. During the war, "some of our people," wrote John Child in his letter dated 7th June, 1689, "were so possessed with dreads and fears that it is a shame to speak of it, and indeed it was a great shame to see it. But now indeed all seem to have more courage than they had, and in all appearance will stand firmly not only for the defence of your Garrison, but to regain what the enemy hath, and beat him off the island, and to effect it we shall not be wanting as becomes us."[3] In another letter, dated the 26th December of the same year, Messrs. Cooke and Child wrote to the same effect: "'Tis true wee must confess 'tis a great evill that our own Garrison souldiers should desert us, and not only that but in actual Armes against us."

These turncoats were probably English soldiers captured by the Sidi. Naturally, the English authorities resented it bitterly that some of their own men should have taken up arms against them. They were likewise not a little annoyed that one of their men should have turned Mahomedan. He was a young foolish fellow, and they believed that it was more from fear than from persuasion that he had changed his religion. In this surmise the English were probably right. It is, indeed, even probable that the Sidi would not have hesitated to put his English captives to the sword, had it not been that he feared lest a similar fate should by way of retribution await those of his followers who had fallen into the hands of the English; for several Sidis had been

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[1] From the President to the Factors at Surat, 15th January, 1690-1, *Appendix*, No. 30; cf. Ovington, *A Voyage to Surat*, p. 156. It should, however, be remarked that Ovington's account is not entirely trustworthy; for he was a zealous Protestant, and religious feelings may have run away with him, when attributing to the Jesuits of Bandra the nefarious design of exterminating the Protestants in Bombay Island.

[2] Edwardes, *Rise of Bombay*, p. 162.

[3] From John Child to Surat, 7th June, 1689, *Appendix*, No. 24.

captured, and were made to work in gangs under the walls of the fort.

Nor was the Sidi's fear without foundation; for Sir John Child felt so keenly for the English soldiers in the hands of the Sidi that he did not hesitate to say it openly that "for everyone of our Countrymen wee would sacrifice 100 of theirs".[1] But from this we should not conclude that the English soldiers in the power of the Sidi were all of them unwilling captives; for the reason of their desertion, according to Hamilton's account, was the ill-treatment they received at the hands of some Irish officers. Theirs was not an enviable position, for no alternative was left to them but to return to their own camp in disgrace, hoping against hope that in the present circumstances, when men were so sorely needed, they would be given a free pardon.[2]

Meanwhile, the Sidi's army was daily increasing in number. Their number grew from twenty-five thousand to forty thousand fighting men; whilst the English troops not amounting to more than twenty-five hundred did not venture to face such overwhelming odds in the open field.[3] This corroborant addition to his troops, enabled the Sidi to make good his losses in men. As regards the losses sustained by his enemy, Messrs. Cook and Child wrote: "He (the Sidi) as fast fills them up, whilst wee cannot repair our losses, which makes us the more sparing of our countrymen."

Under these circumstances Sir John Child saw that no other choice was left to him but to enter into negotiations, not with the Sidi, but with the Sidi's master, the Moghul Emperor. For a great change had taken place in the Court of the Great Moghul. Mukhtear Khan, the Sidi's life-long enemy, had been dismissed from the Emperor's service, and was replaced by Etmatt Khan, a man of Ahmedabad, who had no such animosity against the Sidi as his predecessor. The result was that Aurangzeb's attitude towards the English and the Sidis underwent a total change. The Emperor entrusted Asset Khan and Rullah Khan with the peace negotiations, and gave them full powers to act as they thought best. The two plenipotentiaries therefore wrote to Etmatt Khan and Meer Nezame that unless the English should come and beg

[1] From George Cooke and John Child at Bombay to Surat, 26th December, 1689, *Appendix*, No. 25.
[2] Hamilton, *New Account of the East Indies*, I, p. 230.
[3] Anderson, *The English in Western India*, p. 115.
[4] From George Cooke and John Child at Bombay to Surat, 26th December, 1689, *Appendix*, No. 25.

the great Moghul's pardon and offer him a handsome present, there was no hope of peace being concluded. Then at last Sir John Child realised that nothing short of a display of abject submission would appease the wrath of the Moghul Emperor.[1]

Accordingly, Sir John Child sent two envoys, Messrs. George Weldon and Abraham Navarre, a Jew, to the King's Court where they arrived after 15 days. After having been subjected to the humiliating ordeal of having their hands tied behind their backs, they were obliged to prostrate themselves as culprits in the Emperor's presence. Next they were severely reprimanded, as if they alone had been responsible for the whole business. It was only then that Aurangzeb consented to come to proper terms of peace, on condition that all moneys due to his subjects should be paid, that reparation should be made for the losses the Moghuls had suffered, and that the hateful Sir John Child "the origin of all evil" should leave India before the expiration of nine months. If these terms were agreed to by the English, the Emperor was ready to grant them the new Firman. The text of the document as given by Bruce is as follows :

Translation of the Firman of Aurangzeb to the Company, dated February 27th, 1689-90, "in the 33rd year of a most glorious reign".

"All the English having made a most humble submissive petition, that the crimes they have done may be pardoned, and requested another Phirmaund, to make their being forgiven manifest, and sent their Vakkeels to the heavenly palace, the most illustrious in the world, to get the royal favor ; and Ettimaund Khan (Caun), the Governor of Suratt's, petition to the famous Court, equal to the skie, being arrived that they would present the great King with a fine of 150,000 rupees, to his most noble treasury, resembling the sun, and would restore the merchant's goods they had taken away, to the owners of them, and would walk by the ancient customs of the port, and would behave themselves for the future no more in such a shameful manner ; therefore His Majesty according to his favour due to all the people of the world, hath pardoned their faults, mercifully forgiven them, and out of his princely condecension agrees, that the present be put into the treasury of the port, the merchants' goods be returned, the town flourish, and they follow their trade as in former time, and Mr. Child who did the disgrace, be turned out and expelled. This order is irreversible."[2]

[1] From Surat to Bombay, 15th January, 1690-1, *Appendix*, No. 30.
[2] Bruce, *Annals* referred to by Anderson, p. 116.

The text of this document does not even allude to the haughty terms which Sir John Child had tried to impose upon the Sidi before the war broke out. Such words had never been addressed to the English from their first settlement in India. "The Company were treated," says Anderson, "not (as) the subjects of an independent power, but as criminals who having been mercifully pardoned, were again admitted to live in a state of Slavery."[1]

As a result of all this the English factors who had been imprisoned were released on 24th May, 1690.[2] They had endured great misery and hardships at Danda-Rajpuri. The prisoners taken by Sidi Yakut Khan were still in durance, but orders had been sent to release them. But the English felt inclined to look upon this order for the release of the prisoners as an evident proof that the Sidi had become more peacefully inclined.[3]

Soon after the promulgation of that humiliating Firman, which also expressly stipulated that the Sidi should evacuate Bombay, the English sent their "Goosbadar" (Agent) from Surat to Bombay to put the order into execution. But this was not an easy task, for the Sidi did not seem at all anxious to take his departure from Bombay Island. Already, whilst the peace negotiations were being carried on, the Sidi's stay in Bombay caused considerable trouble. For George Weldon and Abraham Navarre declared "that during their treaty in the Court the greatest rub they found in their way was the getting the King to order the removal of Siddy which was a thing never known in this King's reign before".[4] Finally, an agreement had been arrived at. But who was going to persuade the Sidi that it was now high time for him to leave his winter-quarters in Bombay and to return to Danda-Rajpuri?

So frightened were the English by the Sidi's stay on the island that every now and then they made mention of turning him out. All this can be easily gathered from the following phrases occurring in a Surat Letter dated the 28th April, 1690. "And then to turne away the Siddy; 2nd or that the Merchants should goe downe with the *Eddy* (a ship) ...... and then to turne away the Siddy; 3rd or if they pleased all should be delivered into the

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[1] Anderson, *The English in Western India,* pp. 115-6.

[2] From Surat to Bombay, 30th June, 1690, *Appendix,* No. 29. Anderson on page 116 says they were released on 4th February, 1690. But this cannot be true, for the actual *Firman* is dated 27th February, 1689-90. Hence, the date given in the records is correct.

[3] From Surat to Bombay, 30th June, 1690, *Appendix,* No. 29.

[4] From Surat to Bombay, 15th January, 1690-1, *Appendix,* No. 30.

Generall of Bussein's power and then to turne the Siddy away. For his going away is very positive so that we judge we may be rid of him ere the Raines."

But these expectations were not fulfilled so soon as they had hoped. Neither agreements nor anything else could induce the Sidi to evacuate the harbour, "but that he must have some treasure brought up and delivered". His determination to stay is made evident by his frank statement in one of his letters that unless he should receive an order to the contrary from the Surat Governor, he would winter in the harbour during the whole rainy season. So stubborn was he in his decision that he would come to no other agreement.

The English had already on a previous occasion the sad experience of the Sidi's empty promises. They were, however, ready to satisfy his demand in order to get rid of him. But they were prudent enough to instruct the Governor at Surat before delivering up the treasure that under no circumstances should the Sidi be permitted to make his stay on the island, "if we did what he required us to do". It was only after the Governor had convincing proof that the Sidi would indeed take his departure that the English at last yielded. It was only then that the Governor ordered "Cozzy Ibrahim" (Kazi Ibrahim), the Sidi's Vakil, to prepare himself to go to Bombay on the *Eddy* the next day; even then the English had their own suspicions lest the Sidi should pocket the money and refuse to leave.[1]

It was not until the 22nd of June, 1690,[2] on which day the proclamation of King William and Mary was published at Bombay, and orders were issued for the same ceremony to be observed at Surat and at all the subordinate settlements on the Malabar Coast, that the Sidi left the harbour. "The date of this Proclamation," says Bruce, "is, perhaps, rendered more memorable from its having taken place on the very day on which the Siddee's army retired from the island."[3] "And now this day the Siddy being gone," wrote Messrs. George Cooke and Barker Hibbins, "and Mazagaon in our possession we have

[1] From Surat to Bombay, 28th April, 1690, *Appendix*, No. 26.

[2] Nearly all the authors including Hamilton who have dealt with this portion of our subject make a mistake about the date of the Sidi's departure from the island of Bombay. They say that it was the 8th of June, 1690. But the correct date as ascertained from the records is 22nd June, 1690. Bruce in his *Annals*, however, manages to get the correct information about this date.

[3] Bruce, *Annals*, *II*, p. 665.

posted Ensign Fitzgerald with 10 English 200 Hindus and 44 Christians for the defence of that place and Surrey Bay (Sewree Bay)."[1]

The Sidi had departed but he had left to the inhabitants a bitter souvenir of his presence. Mazgaon Fort was a heap of burning ruins; many a home was empty, and the "plague, intensified by his malice, grew more virulent, and in 4 months time slew more men than even he and his intemperate followers had slain".[2]

This first military campaign is said to have cost the Company not less than £416,000. At this time, according to the description given by the Deputy Governor and Council, the garrison was reduced to thirty-five English soldiers only, and to render the European element of the garrison efficient a large reinforcement of recruits was required.[3] Though Sir John Child's carelessness and his want of resourcefulness were to a large extent the chief cause of the general débâcle, the Court declared that he had acted with circumspection and energy. Was it really so? Or are we justified in saying that the great esteem in which the Court held Sir John Child made the members of the Court blind to the lamentable lack of efficiency displayed by the Governor of Bombay? The facts we have narrated will naturally supply the best answer to our question.

After all, Sir John Child was the servant of a Company, and that, too, of a Mercantile Company, which received little or no support from the Crown, and which was ten thousand miles away from the field of its activities. Yet he had the courage or rashness to declare war against several princes at a time. We need not wonder, therefore, that the Company was bound to suffer. Child's policy was an error that was unpardonable from every point of view. Was it not an egregious provocation to seize vessels belonging to the Sidi without any declaration of war?

Perhaps his supporters might defend him by saying that the Sidi was informed that if his fleet put to sea, the English would assume that his intentions were hostile, and would deal with him as an enemy. But this presumption, which can hardly be

[1] From Bombay to Surat, 22nd June, 1690, *Appendix*, No. 27. There is another reference to the same date in a letter from Surat dated 15th January, 1690-1, *Appendix*, No. 30.

[2] cf. Edwardes, *Rise of Bombay*, p. 132.

[3] Bruce, *Annals, III*, p. 95.

defended, is not worthy of support. Child's policy almost amounted to piracy, and a man who professed to be at the head of a band of honest traders proved himself a pirate. Consequently, Anderson pointedly and justly remarks that "they were both bad traders and bad pirates".[1] Yet our surprise is still greater when we hear in a letter from London, dated the 13th of May, 1691, the Court of Directors declaring "that the attempt in making warr upon that great Monarch the Mogull was very dangerous; but it was just, because it was necessary *Bonum quia unicum*. It was wise, because there was no other way to save the English interest in India."[2]

Sir John Child could have cherished every reasonable hope of success if only he had adopted the following two measures; the strengthening of the fortifications of Bombay, and the strengthening of the English fleet. Both measures he failed to adopt. Although warned by the Court of Directors that he must guard the walls and bastions, he neglected to do so; although he had sworn, to repeat in his own words, that the enemy "will know and feel the force of your Armes", Sidi Yakut was allowed to land his army on the island without the slightest check or hindrance.

He was spared the disgrace of surviving the humiliation brought upon the English by the utter failure of his administration, as he expired on the 4th of January, 1690. "The death of the wolves is the safety of the sheep," writes Mr. Anderson, "and the removal of this obnoxious man much facilitated the restoration of the English to Aurangzeb's favour."[3]

[1] Anderson, *The English in Western India*, p. 117.
[2] From London to the President and Council at Surat, 13th May, 1691, *Appendix*, No. 31.
[3] Anderson, p. 117.

CHAPTER IV

A PEACEFUL INTERLUDE

(1690-1732)

The Sidis' invasion of Bombay was a great blow to English commerce, for the disastrous effects of his stay in Bombay were long felt and still longer remembered by the inhabitants. The period which follows the Sidis' departure, and with which we have to deal, is of very little consequence. It extends from 1690-1732, and during these 42 years slow and steady progress was made in the development of the resources of Bombay Island, whilst at the same time the people little by little returned to take up their abode in the villages from which they had been ejected. The Marathas and the Angrias, that is, a band of Marathas under the leadership of Canhoji Angria, were equally prosperous. In fact, they were in the zenith of their power. The Sidis alone seemed to be on the verge of decline, though they could still make their presence felt.

What was the chief cause of the prosperity which Bombay Island now began to enjoy? "The secret of our progress," wrote Edwardes, "lies, we believe, in the fact of our being for the first time an united community; the house was no longer divided against itself; the dual control of affairs by Surat and Bombay Presidents had vanished; internal feuds had been laid to rest; unity of interests, unity of purpose had supervened."

It was, of course, essential to adopt a careful line of policy towards the various powers whose territories surrounded the Island of Bombay. By a great deal of commendable prudence the English endeavoured to improve the administration of the island, and in doing so, profited by every opportunity that offered itself. Therefore, until the English should be strong enough to hold their own, the keynote of the policy which the Company followed during the period under review was carefully to refrain from hostilities with their neighbours.

But complete isolation was impossible. The authorities of the Company tried to keep on good terms with their troublesome enemies—at one moment siding with one party, at another helping a weaker party whose ruin might lead to the downfall of

the English themselves. This policy they followed in their dealings with the Sidis and the Angrias. They were not slow to realise that the Sidi's power was waning, nor did they fail to understand that Angria was becoming as dangerous as, if not more dangerous, than the Sidi. To crush the Angrias was absolutely impossible; therefore, the only choice left to them was to consolidate their position and to multiply their resources, and in the meantime to give all possible support to the Sidi to make use of him as a foil to the Angria.[1]

After this general survey of the policy of the English during the period 1690-1732, we will now give a detailed account of the more noteworthy events. The gates of the Bombay harbour were closed to the Sidis for a few years after their invasion of Bombay. In September, 1694, the Bombay Government issued the following order to Lieutenant Hanmer: "The Sidi's people have obtained leave to buy what quantity of coir they have occasion for, as also for some quantities of corn and other provision for their own use, there being five of their gallivats of coming to Mahim. These are to enorder you to let the people belonging to them to come on shore as formerly about the fore-mentioned occasions."[2]

Thus, the English and the Sidis continued to live on terms of good friendship as can also be inferred from a Bombay letter, dated the 29th of October, 1695. "But (we) have received an answer," wrote John Gayer, "of our letter from Abdull Rara Ckanne, Muttabar Ckanne and the Siddy & ca: all professing the utmost friendship to us......and the Siddy hath sent us the coppy of his to the Governour of Surat, and the coppy of the Governour's to him."[3] This statement is confirmed by a Surat letter, dated the 30th of October, 1695, in which the factors state that the Sidi had come there from Danda-Rajpuri with his ten grabs for supplying himself with corn and other provisions, but had not purchased anything up to that time.[4]

About that time there was a change in the attitude of the English towards the Moghuls. Up to now the Sidi used annually to receive a certain amount of money for defending the Moghul King's subjects from piracy and plunder, both on sea as well as on land. The Company thought of making a proposal to

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[1] Edwardes, *Rise of Bombay*, pp. 140-1.

[2] Order to Lieut. James Hanmer, Bombay Castle, 12th September, 1694, Sect. Out. L. B. 5 of 1694-6, p. 12.

[3] From Surat to Bombay, 29th October, 1695, *Appendix*, No. 32.

[4] From Surat to Bombay, 30th October, 1695, *Appendix*, No. 33.

Aurangzeb on this subject. But they wisely hesitated to do so, and the difficulties which the Sidi had to face in thus protecting the Moghul's subjects, both on sea as well as on land, stood them in good stead. For they had learned with surprise that, in order to perform the service he had undertaken, the Sidi had to spend four times more on naval expenses than on the upkeep of his land-forces. Therefore, taking into consideration their present straits, they thought it best to drop the idea altogether, and there is no denying that they acted wisely.[1]

That the English were still on friendly terms with the Sidis is proved by extant documents. In a letter from Surat, dated the 12th of November, 1695, we read that the English had supplied the Sidi with ammunitions, namely, "400 single mds. Powder and 200 great shott of several sorts". What is more, the bond of friendship grew stronger than it had formerly been. "O King of Kings," wrote the Sidi to the Great Moghul, "the English are great merchants and drive a vast trade in your Country." Moreover, the Sidi greatly appreciated the service rendered by John Gayer at Bombay. He admitted, to repeat his own words, that "there are a great (many) hat-men (Europeans) thieves in these seas", but they were not Englishmen, and he also expressed the hope that they never will be.[2] This makes it plain that the relations between the Sidis and the English were all that one could wish for.

As regards the Sidis and the Marathas, their mutual relations continued to be far from peaceful. Several hot skirmishes took place between them during the year 1700. The chief cause of those hostilities was the report that the Marathas had strengthened their ranks with 8,000 horsemen and 12,000 footmen. They had also burnt several villages in the neighbourhood of Danda-Rajpuri. But the Marathas were not the only culprits; the Sidis also were guilty of gross outrages, and did considerable damage. They profited by Canhoji Angria's absence to block up the entrances by sea to his castle. Whilst the Sidis were thus engaged, Canhoji Angria laid waste Thull and other places, plundered those parts, and carried away booty and people on his way. These contests kept the Sidi quiet for some time.

In the meantime, the English received information from an Englishman who resided at Danda-Rajpuri that Sir Nicol Watts

[1] From John Gayer at Bombay to the President and Council at Surat, 8th November, 1695, *Appendix*, No. 34.

[2] From Surat to the Governor of Bombay, 12th November, 1695, *Appendix*, No. 35.

had forwarded a request to the Sidi to the effect that the English ships should be allowed to take in at his port, wood, water and other provisions; Sir Nicol Watts also asked the Sidi to allow the English sailors to stay on shore. The Sidi expressed his willingness to accede to the first request, but he did not grant them leave to stay on shore. He said "that his Fort was free to any and if that their ships came and anchored at the usual place without for all strangers and sent the boats ashores they should be supplied with what the places afforded but for any of his people to stay there he could not grant it."[1]

During the month of February, 1700, the Sidi himself came with a number of large ships; and the English, not aware of his intentions, kept everything in a state of defence, for they did not trust him. They had just received the news that the Sidi had but recently released from captivity the English Governor of Surat, of whose imprisonment they had up to that time been ignorant. Therefore, having had sufficient experience of the Sidi's lawless, base and malicious proceedings against His Excellency, the English left no stone unturned to put the Bombay harbour in a good state of defence. But their fears were set at rest. The rumour spread that the Sidi was resolved to capture "Caulaby & Cundry" (Kolaba and Kenary), though there was good reason to believe that he had not the slightest chance of success. Anyhow, the Sidi was so near the harbour, that, taking into consideration all the circumstances, it was thought advisable to send him a present either of a hundred or of two hundred rupees as usual.[2]

It was not always easy for the Sidi to ward off Maratha attacks; for it would seem that, in spite of the great forces at the Sidi's disposal, the Maratha gallivats could manage to go from one place to another. From a letter, dated the 6th of March, 1700, we learn that the Sidis sent an angry letter charging the English with assisting their enemy, the Marathas, with shots and other necessaries of war. The accusations were entirely false. The English had not helped the Marathas in the least. On the contrary, since they were aware of the late skirmishes between the Sidis and the latter, they had neither allowed the Marathas to stay on the island nor had they admitted any of their vessels, although this permission was certainly granted to the Sidis.[3]

[1] From Bombay to Surat, 14th January, 1700, *Appendix*, No. 36.
[2] From Bombay to Surat, 28th February, 1700, *Appendix*, No. 37.
[3] From Bombay to Surat, 6th March, 1700, *Appendix*, No. 38.

The struggle was a protracted one. On one occasion the Sidi suffered a considerable loss, but the account which the English learned was intended to conceal the severity of this defeat. What made the English aware of the true state of affairs was the Sidi's request that a surgeon should immediately be sent to dress the wounded. Moreover, the Sidi expressed his willingness to defray all the expenses, and added that he was sure that even the Moghul Emperor would appreciate this help given to the wounded soldiers. Dr. Thompson offered his services, and even made arrangements that assistants should be sent to him in case he should need them to perform dangerous operations. Of course, the Sidi was highly pleased.[1]

Such was the state of affairs in 1701. After this year there are hardly any documents extant. It is true there is a series of three letters dated 1728,[2] but their contents do not throw any further light on the relations between the Sidis and the Marathas. We feel inclined to believe that on the whole no important events took place. In all probability between 1701 and 1732 the English continued to strengthen their position in the East, and remained passive spectators of the sporadic outbursts of hostility between the Marathas and the Sidis.

[1] Bombay Castle Diary, 2nd April, 1701, *Appendix*, No. 39.

[2] Letters dated 13th September, 12th and 16th November, 1728, *Appendix*, Nos. 40, 41 and 42.

CHAPTER V

ENGLISH ALLIANCE WITH THE SIDIS OF JANJIRA

(1733-1736)

We now come to an epoch in our history, when the English, who had long fixed their covetous eyes upon the revenue which was allotted to the Sidis for maintaining the fleet of the Moghul King, once more determined to endeavour to acquire it for themselves. This special revenue, which was granted to the Sidis for their naval service, was known as "tankha".[1]

One of the chief motives that influenced the English in their determination was the following. The Sidi's power at sea was in its decline. "There was no longer any prospect of the Sidi's family ever being able to make a figure at sea." Though they were considered the hereditary admirals of the Moghul Empire, the reputation of the successive Sidis had gradually been on the wane. Their flag was no longer respected by the native powers, nor was it held in dread by the numerous rovers of the coast. Since it was becoming clear that their power must pass into other hands, it was also becoming equally clear that the assignment of the revenues should pass into other hands also.[2]

Angria was the only enemy the English had to fear on sea. In the year 1712 Canhoji Angria had already captured two English vessels.[3] From this time onwards the followers of Angria and the British had more than once come to blows. However, Canhoji Angria was not such a formidable foe as the Sidis had been. Moreover, English affairs had considerably improved. Their naval power had already begun to be acknowledged by all. They had by this time established a kind of suzerainty by forcing native vessels to carry English passes, and by declaring

[1] Originally it meant a small silver coin instead of 'jaghir' used for payment, a system introduced by Todar Mahal, a great Hindu financier, during the reign of Akbar. But here it means some part of the revenue allowed by one person for the services rendered to another. Tankha according to Mr. Henry Lowther is used for the grant of revenues of a town or some villages with their dependencies. *Appendix,* No. 50.

[2] Bombay Castle Diary, 7th June, 1733, *Appendix,* No. 44.

[3] cf. Downing, *A History of the Indian Wars,* p. 12.

all such ships as were without a pass lawful prizes.[1] Nor were they inferior to the seamen of Angria as regards courage, nautical experience and naval tactics.

At that time the Sidi was in close alliance with the English, and therefore they were unwilling to have recourse to force in order to gain the position of 'admirals'. Moreover, they did not like to make the Sidis their enemy at a time when the attitude of both the Angrias and the Marathas was not only unfriendly but also threatening.[2] Yet in June, 1733, negotiations were entered upon by the Bombay Government for the appropriation of the tankha.

What made the English all the more determined was that news reached the President at Bombay that all the forts and fleets at Rajpuri belonging to the Sidi had been taken possession of by the combined forces of Shahu Raja and Angria. The result was obvious. As the Sidi's whole fleet was captured, he and his followers were rendered helpless. The President, therefore, wrote a letter to Mr. Henry Lowther at Surat, and asked him whether with the assistance of Tegbakt Khan, the then reigning Governor of Surat, the English could possibly hope of obtaining a Firman from the Court at Delhi to the effect that a grant of an annual 'jaghir' of three lakhs of rupees, which had been hitherto paid to the Sidi, should be made to the Honourable Company in return for the protection the English would afford to the trade at Surat and on other coasts. The reason of this request was that the Sidi could no longer protect the Moghul vessels, whilst

[1] The following is the form of these passes as agreed upon by Council in April, 1734:—

"To all Commanders of Ships or Vessels or whomsoever subject to His Majesty George II, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc.

"These presents are to certifie at the request of......Inhabitant of...... and owner of the......burthen......Candys. Where of goes......with...... guns laden with......and bound to......

"That in consideration of the friendship, peace and amity between our respective nations and Governments, I, James Hope, Esqr., Chief for affairs of the British Nation in Surat, do ....., accordingly require all or any subjects...... navigating or trading under the protection of the English East India Company......that may happen to meet with the said......in her intended voyage, not to give her the least hindrance or molestation, which certificate is to be in full force during the term of ......and no longer. Given under my hand in Surat, this ...... day of...... Anno Domini 1739.

"By order of James Hope, Esq., Chief of the affairs of the British Nation in Surat." Surat Factory Diary, 10th August, 1739.

[2] *Bombay Quarterly Review*, IV, pp. 187-9.

the Marathas, whose power had been considerably strengthened by the capture of the fleet and forts of Rajpuri, were daily becoming more defiant and aggressive.

But Mr. Lowther was not even given time to make this proposal to Tegbakt Khan; for on the 24th of May, 1733, Tegbakt Khan sent for Mr. Lowther, and made to him of his own accord proposals for that very purpose. At first the English thought that the tankha was already theirs; but, as it will become clear later on, they were doomed to be disappointed, for the interests of too many parties were concerned. Besides the Company, the Governor of Surat and the Sidi, the Dutch also had interests at stake.

As was but natural in an answer Mr. Lowther readily fell in with Tegbakt Khan's proposals. He thanked him for his offer and the good opinion he had of the English nation, and did not fail to point out to him that, though the Sidi was receiving the 'jaghir' from the Surat Customs on the pretence that he was protecting the Moghul trade, the real protectors were the British. So far were the Sidis from fulfilling the conditions, subject to which the grant had originally been conferred on them, that at that very moment they were asking assistance from the Government of Bombay.[1] In the same letter he also mentioned that the Company had already incurred great expenses, and in order to lessen these they were on the point of making peace with the sons of Angria, who had offered the English really advantageous terms. However, the English would refrain from making with the sons of Angria a treaty of peace, which was on the point of being concluded, and instead of it they would accept the terms offered by Tegbakt Khan.[2]

The only difficult point to be settled was what sum the English should receive for the proposed services. It was true that on paper three lakhs of rupees were set apart for the Sidis, but only two lakhs reached their treasury, one lakh being intercepted by the Governor of the city as his perquisite. "Upon a stricken enquiry into things since this Negotiation," writes Henry Lowther, "wch. before were foreign to my business, I find that the King only allows a sum not exceeding two lack to the Scidy, & that when Government was not farmed, the Govrs. sometimes compunded for less, and took the Scidy's Vakeel recet for the sum compunded, only reserving to themselves a deduction

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[1] *Bombay Quarterly Review*, IV, p. 188.

[2] Bombay Castle Diary, 7th June, 1733, *Appendix*, No. 44.

of two percent." Such was the information he received from the former Vakils of the Sidi, and this information was afterwards confirmed by Tegbakt Khan himself.[1]

Before accepting this new Firman, the English had to consider the following point. Formerly, a small force was found sufficiently capable of opposing the combined forces of Angria and the other petty pirates; but after the capture of the Sidi's grabs and gallivats, in addition to what they already possessed, the Angrias had become too formidable to be held in check with ease. To prevent their depredations on sea a considerable marine force would be essential. It is but natural, therefore, that with this increase of their naval forces greater expenses would be incurred—"much greater expence than ever the Scidy was at his Fleet, wch. was seldom fitted out, but once a Year, & that only for two Months in the fairest Season".[2]

The English seemed, therefore, to have had no doubts that the service of protecting the Moghul shipping would land them into considerable expense. On the other hand they thought that this would secure for them the naval supremacy in those parts. As a matter of fact they looked upon this protectorship being conferred upon them by the Moghul Emperor as the only means to check the growing power of the ambitious Angrias. They were also encouraged in their design by Tegbakt Khan and his brother, who made ready promises of whole-hearted co-operation. Tegbakt Khan even went so far as to suggest to Mr. Lowther that the successful issue of the transaction depended entirely upon the English being satisfied with two lakhs of rupees in payment for the protectorship which they would have to undertake.

Now two hundred thousand rupees was a considerable amount of money, and in Mr. Lowther's opinion this sum would more than cover their expenses. He accordingly wrote to the Governor of Bombay "an Augmentation of two Lack to a force already form'd, wou'd enable us, if vigorously pursued in a short time for a few Years to curb the Enemy so much that half the Expence hereafter wou'd suffice, & then a large profitt wou'd accrue to the Company for (from) the Punctual payment of the Tankha at this Port".[3]

[1] From Henry Lowther to Robert Cowan at Bombay, 16th July, 1733, *Appendix*, No. 51.

[2] Bombay Castle Diary, 7th January, 1733, *Appendix*, No. 46.

[3] From Henry Lowther to Robert Cowan at Bombay, 16th July, 1733, *Appendix*, No. 51.

But the negotiations were suddenly brought to a standstill by the unexpected arrival of Sidi Masud at Surat. On the 29th of May, 1733, he came to pay a long visit to Mr. Henry Lowther. He was not a welcome guest, for he came to hire soldiers and to ask English assistance in order to be able to protect the forts, which were situated south of Janjira and which were still in the possession of the Sidis. Nor was he a trustworthy guest, for his visit and his demands were as unexpected as they were surprising. For in a letter dated September, 1733, Mr. Lowther writes that Sidi Masud had confessed to him that the report of his friendship and alliance with Baji Rao was true to fact. Mr. Lowther, therefore, could not help suspecting him; for it was now clear that Sidi Masud "being for a long time at variance with Sciddee Yaucoob Caun" had been chiefly instrumental in first stirring up the Marathas against his own countrymen. It was practically due to him that the Sidis had lost their fleets and many of their forts. There was, therefore, ample reason for distrusting him.

Sidi Masud was apparently not troubled by the double game he had been playing. He made bold to say that he expected the English, the Portuguese and the Moors to combine forces to assist his master (Sidi Yakut Khan) in recovering his country from the hands of the Angrias and the Marathas. But there was no likelihood of this alliance ever taking place; for, "how can he expect," wrote Robert Cowan, "that the English and the Portugueze shou'd join the few disanimated Troops remaining to the Scidy to regain his Country from the Maurattas, wth. whom both Nations are at Peace".[1]

Sidi Masud's visit likewise proved very unwelcome to Tegbakt Khan. The danger which he apprehended was that, if the Marathas succeeded in driving the 'young Sidi' and his people out of their country, whilst at the same time Sidi Masud would raise a number of men there, the Port of Surat might be the sufferer for it. But his fear was groundless.[2] To raise and maintain men without money was not an easy task for Sidi Masud. The task of conveying some men from Danda-Rajpuri was also very problematic, because the gallivats of the Angrias had cut off all communications with that port. Even assuming that

[1] From Robert Cowan to Henry Lowther, 14th June, 1733, *Appendix*, No. 48.

[2] From Henry Lowther to Robert Cowan, 12th June, 1733, *Appendix*, No. 47.

the way was not blocked up, the Sidis had no ships at Rajpuri for the transport of the required 500 men.[1]

Whilst these negotiations were being carried on by the Surat and the Bombay Governments, the strong Fort of Rairi under the Sidi's command was delivered up to Baji Rao, and there was every likelihood that after its surrender the remaining four of the Sidi's forts would share the same fate. This we learn from a communication, dated Parel, the 14th of June, 1733. The English thought that a golden opportunity had now presented itself for obtaining the aforesaid tankha.[2]

The Sidi's former requests for assistance against the Marathas and the Angrias were again repeated. On the 23rd of June, 1733, Sidi Masud Khan, the principal officer of the Sidi of Janjira, forwarded to Mr. Henry Lowther a 'Misure' (Memorial) addressed to the King, which was signed by the Surat merchants, and represented therein in the 'strongest colours' the Angrias' power at sea and the insecurity which the general trade would have to undergo in case the Janjira forts were not protected.

There is no denying that the Sidi's situation was very critical at that moment. He earnestly requested the English to adopt some means to assist him with forces ; he also appealed to Tegbakt Khan, and asked him that the tankha might be continued to be paid to him.

The object the Sidi had in view in sending the 'Misure' was to induce Mr. Henry Lowther to sign it and to affix the Company's seal to it. But Mr. Lowther excused himself on the pretext that he could not act in the matter on his own authority, "alledging that it was contrary to our custom" to decide such matters without positive orders from the Bombay Government. Of course, the Sidi's concern required immediate attention, and so the matter was at an end.

When Tegbakt Khan and Gulam Mahomed, his brother and a friend of the English, became aware of the story of the Sidi's 'Memorial', they were greatly pleased with the line of action Mr. Henry Lowther had taken, and entertained hopes that their own cause would be brought to a successful issue. But man proposes and God disposes. Tegbakt Khan feared lest Sidi Masud should succeed in obtaining an order from the Moghul King, his

[1] From Robert Cowan to Henry Lowther, 14th June, 1733, *Appendix*, No. 48.

[2] From Robert Cowan to Henry Lowther, 14th June, 1733, *Appendix*, No. 49.

master, to have the tankha paid to him. Therefore, Tegbakt Khan resolved that, whatever might be the consequences, he would not comply with such an order, unless and until his cause would be heard at the Court of Delhi; for it was not possible for the Moghul Emperor and his ministers to know the situation of affairs at so great a distance from them.[1]

At last the Sidi, who had addressed himself to the Moghul Emperor and his ministers, succeeded in obtaining his demands. A letter from the Moghul Court recommended the President to help the Sidi with forces in his attempt to regain possession of his country. Tegbakt Khan was given an opportunity of perusing this document. The President also received a copy of it by patamar,[2] on the 9th of July, 1733; but this copy was destroyed by Tegbakt Khan "alledging that if Sciddee Mossoot once had possession of it, he will be daily importuning them for money & us for men to assist his master".[3] These words of Tegbakt Khan clearly prove that he had not the least intention of paying the yearly stipend to the Sidi.

Meanwhile, the Sidis, whose prosperous days had passed, were being threatened by their surrounding foes. Gradually the Angrias, assisted by Raja Shahu's forces, were steadily making progress in the work of subjugating their country. Sidi Yakut Khan died. After his death it was more through the dissension of his officers than by force of their arms that the enemy managed to get possession of the town of Rajpuri and the fortress of "Cocree" with grabs, gallivats and other warlike stores. All that now remained in the Sidis' hands was their beloved Castle of Danda-Rajpuri.

Through some treachery the strong Fort of Rairi, which was formerly the chief seat of Shivaji and the successors of Raja Shahu, was already in Angria's possession. According to the intelligence the President had received, another separate body of Raja Shahu's forces was commanded to march towards 'Anjenwell' (Anjenjo) "under the guns of which lay the whole fleet belonging to the Siddie of Jinjeera",[4] and towards the other two southern forts which still belonged to the Sidi. Likewise, Raja Shahu prepared to attack the Fort of Andheri, but

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[1] From Henry Lowther to Robert Cowan at Bombay, Surat, 26th June, 1733, *Appendix*, No. 50.

[2] Patamar is a dispatch boat. (*Patta* = tidings.)

[3] From Henry Lowther to Robert Cowan and John Horne, 10th July, 1733, *Appendix*, No. 52.

[4] *Bombay Quarterly Review*, IV, p. 72.

deemed it wise to wait till the beginning of the fair season, so that he would be able to make use of his gallivats for the purpose.

The position of the English became once more critical. The time had come when they had begun anticipating an extinction of their commerce in Western India. Furthermore, it was but natural that the Angrias, emboldened by the successes they had achieved, were planning to bring all the territories between Bombay and Goa under their subjection. The English were not slow to realise that if the Angrias should succeed in achieving this end they would become the masters of the southern entrance of the Bombay harbour, which would render it impracticable for small ships to escape from the clutches of their gallivats. As we have already pointed out, this would put an end to the greater part of the English trade in this port.[1]

"Upon this emergency," wrote Robert Cowan, "wee have been frequently solicited by the Sciddee's officers for assistance both from Rajahpore and Anjenwell, but more immediately from Underee nearest in our neighbourhood." It was not possible for the English to grant the necessary assistance, for their garrisons were too weak and these three places were far apart from one another. The immediate danger that claimed the attention of the English was the attempt against Andheri, which was situated in the neighbourhood of the Bombay harbour, and the downfall of which into the enemy's hands would not only put a stop to their commerce, but would also affect the supply of provisions for maintenance of the Bombay Island.

These considerations were duly weighed by the authorities, and it was finally decided that for the safeguard and honour of the Company the utmost endeavours should be made to prevent the island and the fortress of Andheri from falling into the hands of the enemy. This was to be effected in two ways. Either the English should allow Andheri to remain in the hands of the Sidi himself by giving him all the necessary assistance, or they should themselves take possession of it. Moreover, the following terms were proposed to the Sidi. The English declared themselves ready to restore the fortress of Andheri to the heirs of Sidi Yakut Khan, provided the latter were willing to repay all the expenses incurred by the Honourable Company together with the interest on their capital at the usual rate of nine per cent. per annum. It was also added that if by misfortune the Marathas should take possession of the Sidi's terri-

[1] From Henry Lowther to the President at Bombay, 13th July, 1733, *Appendix*, No. 54.

tories, and if the Sidi should not have the slightest hope of retrieving them, in such a case the fortress of Andheri would remain the sole right and property of the Honourable Company.

To ward off a Maratha attack, and to check the growth of the Maratha power at Anjenjo, the Bombay Government decided to send Lieutenant Inchbird and Captain Macneale with the galleys *Victoria, Bombay* and *Princess* to the Sidi's assistance. But for some reasons, which are purposely not mentioned, the expedition did not sail till the following March, and even then the protecting contingent was composed of "one Lieutenant, two Ensigns, four Sergeants and four Corporals, forty European Musqueters and sixty topasses". These men were provided with the following ammunitions, "six nine pounders, six six pounders, sixty barrels of powder, one hundred spare musquettes and sundry other stores". The whole expedition was under the command of Lieutenant James Inchbird. He received instructions to the following effect. He was not empowered to take active measures but merely to consult with the Sidi and to deliver to him sixty barrels of gunpowder and a hundred muskets. Besides, upon landing the cannon and the ammunition he had to take the exact survey of the fortress of Andheri and to judge whether it was possible to defend it or not. If he had the slightest misgiving about the possibility of its defence, he was directed to await the President's instructions in the matter.[1]

In another letter Lieutenant Inchbird was commanded not to act on any occasion of importance without consulting Robert Macneale and without taking his advice and approbation.[2] There is also extant a detailed account of further directions given to the leader of the English expeditionary force. This account may be referred to in the appendix.[3]

Furthermore, the President wrote, "In my letter to Sidi Belal, I have signified to him as my opinion that on the present Emergency it will be for his interest and that of the Seedy his master to hoist the English flag upon his Fort and deliver up to you (James Inchbird) the defence of it."[4]

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[1] From Robert Cowan to Henry Lowther, 13th July, 1733, *Appendix*, No. 54; *Bombay Quarterly Review*, IV, pp. 72-3.

[2] From the President at Bombay to James Inchbird, 11th July, 1733, *Appendix*, No. 53.

[3] From the President at Bombay to James Inchbird, 14th July 1733, *Appendix*, No. 55.

[4] *Ibid.*

The Angrias were continually increasing their fleet. Therefore, when the English, who ever kept a vigilant watch over them, received reliable information that they were waiting for the fair season to set in to put to sea with their ships, the President thought it prudent to adopt all the necessary measures for the safety of the English settlement on the Bombay island. The number of vessels the English possessed at the time in question was certainly not sufficient to hold in check the combined naval forces of the two Angria brothers; for the English fleet was not only employed for the purpose of war; it had also to perform several other services besides. Immediate attention was therefore directed towards the reinforcement of the English fleet. As the galley, *Rose,* was looked upon as a fit vessel for the purpose, she was purchased from her proprietors at a cost of Rs. 7,603.

According to the resolution of the 13th July, 1733, the *Mary,* commanded by Captain Holden, weighed anchor five miles off the island of Andheri; for the Commander of the ship thought that it was not safe to approach closer to the island. The *Mary* was accompanied by four of the Company's fighting gallivats and six Thanah boats. On their arrival on the 15th of July, 1733, Messrs. Inchbird and Macneal visited the Kiladar, Sidi Belal, and after inspecting the condition of the whole island they deemed it possible to defend it against the attacks of the enemy. Sidi Belal then agreed to the President's former proposal of hoisting the English flag on the Fort of Andheri. Accordingly, on the following morning, the 16th of July, 1733, the English colours were for the first time flying over the Fort of Andheri, and the occasion was celebrated with the discharge of the guns of the fort. The enemy began their cannonading from Kenery on that very day, and kept doing so for several days in succession but with little effect.

Whilst the English were thus engaged in helping the Sidis to defend the Fort of Andheri, the President received a letter from "Shum Shamud Dolla" (Samsam-ud-daulah), the secretary to the Moghul Emperor, who was formerly known by the name of "Caun Duan" (Khan Dauran). In this letter he begged the English in the name of the Moghul Emperor to help the Sidi in conjunction with the Portuguese in his attempt to recover his territories from the hands of Raja Shahu and Angria. The President's answer to the above request was that the English were willing to help the Sidi in regaining his dominions, provided the Moghul Emperor was willing to defray the expenses they

would have to incur in such an undertaking. The President also requested that the Emperor should send imperial troops to act in concert with the English. When this first appeal for British assistance was followed by other requests, the one more pressing than the other, the President at last wrote that it was the main business of the English to trade, "and not to increase our Charges, we keep up such number of troops only as are capable of defending and protecting our commerce, without interfering with the too frequent quarrels of the neighbouring powers".[1]

However, it was high time for the English to increase the number of their fighting men for other purposes besides that of protecting their commerce; for they were time after time asked to come to the aid now of the Sidi, and now of other neighbouring powers.

On the 7th August, the President received a letter from Sidi Sat earnestly imploring the English to help him with artillery, ammunition and other warlike stores, which would enable him to make a stand against "Seerpaut Row" (Sirpant Rao) who, with a body of the Marathas joined with Angria's forces commanded by Ragunath Rao, had invaded the territories within the Sidi's jurisdiction. One of the three forts belonging to the Sidi was already captured, and the other two were in immediate danger. The Sidi "strenously requests," says the President, "that the said succours be sent him with all expedition." But it was unanimously decided that the time within which this help was required was too close at hand for the English to be able to come to the Sidi's assistance. This decision was not inspired by lack of good will. For the English apprehended that, if before the breaking up of the monsoon the Forts of Anjengo and Goval were not considerably reinforced, they would in all likelihood share the same fate as his other fortresses.

The Board resolved to write to the Sidi that it was not within their power to send the required assistance before the end of the monsoon. Even after that period they were not in a position to spare him the five hundred musqueteers for whom he had asked. But they promised to supply him with arms, ammunition and other warlike stores. "We are very desirous," wrote the President, "of giving him and the King's fortresses under his command all the assistance in our power against the common Enemy."[2]

[1] From the President at Bombay to Surat, 26th July, 1733, *Appendix*, No. 57.

[2] Bombay Castle Diary, 10th August, 1738, *Appendix*, No. 58.

It now became evident that the Sidi was driven to the last extremity, for his demands for assistance were becoming more urgent and more frequent. But the English were not in a position to comply with his request, for they had comparatively few soldiers at their disposal. As a last hope they proposed that the Sidi should limit his military activities to defend his forts against the enemy land-forces, whilst they themselves would ward off enemy's naval attacks. This course would perhaps make Baji Raó despair of reducing the forts, and might also induce him to make peace and remain contented with what he had already conquered.

Of course, the willingness of the English to help the Sidi was mainly inspired by interested motives. They wanted to take advantage of the Sidi's deplorable state of utter helplessness. "I cannot see," wrote Henry Lowther, "who (why) on account of necessary and timely aid he should not make over to the Honble Company all his right and title to the tankha, which, unless we have, must inevitably fall into the enemy's hands." Mr. Lowther was indeed playing a clever game. He knew that the Sidi's distress was a golden opportunity to obtain from him a complete surrender of the tankha. With the Sidi's letter of surrender in his possession, he would, with the help of influential merchants, obtain from Tegbakt Khan more favourable terms than those previously agreed upon, when the tankha question was first broached. Moreover, the Sidi's deed of renunciation would easily be confirmed by the Court at Delhi.[1]

So eager were the English to obtain the tankha for themselves that a formal document to the effect that it had been granted to them was drawn up, in order that it might be given to the monarch of Hindostan. For this document the reader is referred to the appendix.[2]

The Bombay Government on receiving a copy of this document discovered that it was couched in most ambiguous terms and that its meaning was liable to be some day distorted so as to prove highly dangerous and most disadvantageous to the Company. The study of one of its clauses will be a clear proof of this contention. It was affirmed that "merely for the defence of the Sea's and chastisement of its robbers was delivered to the care of Sciddee Yaucoob Caun, who by his Vessels of War cruizing on the seas took care that the Merchants without fear or loss

[1] From Henry Lowther at Surat to the President at Bombay, 22nd August, 1733, *Appendix*, No. 60.

[2] *Appendix*, No. 61.

might send their Vessels on voyages to different parts". This, remarked the President, was a palpable misrepresentation. It was certain that for the last twenty years the Sidi had neither sent any such vessels on voyages, nor prevented any losses that accrued to the ships of Surat and other merchants. For during that period several ships belonging to Surat merchants and to others were seized by the Angrias and other pirates. However, the Sidi had passed the matter over as if he were not in the least concerned. Nor was he at any time called upon to make good such losses. It was plain, therefore, that the document which was drawn up for the English, and which Tegbakt Khan wanted to impose on them, was "highly unreasonable"; for according to the words of the text they would be obliged to fit out such vessels and give such instructions "that no Pyracies be committed on their commerce with safety".[1]

"We have reason to believe," says Robert Cowan, "that Tegbakt Khan (Caun) had in view the utter extirpation of the Sciddees, & on that account pretended to make us an offer of the Tanka formerly paid them, more than to serve the publick or out of regard to us, judging that, if the Sciddees had been entirely suppress'd, he wou'd have been freed from their annual importunities, & wou'd soon have framed some pretence to have taken the Tanka from us." Apart from this explanation there was no reason for him to press the English so much to sign so unreasonable a contract.

As soon as the English became aware of Tegbakt Khan's real design, they resolved that it would be more to their advantage to help the Sidis in recovering their territories and thus gain their friendship than rely at all on Tegbakt Khan's doubtful integrity. Moreover, they felt assured that in future the Sidis, for their own security and interest, would always be on the side of the English against the Angrias, and that they would be helpful to the English in putting a stop to all future insolences and oppressions of the Surat Government.[2]

Whilst the Sidi demanded aid from the English against Raja Shahu and Angria, Raja Shahu sent messengers to the President complaining about the misbehaviour of the Sidi of Danda-Rajpuri. The envoys complained that by force of arms the Sidis had possessed themselves of several ports in Raja Shahu's pos-

[1] From Robert Cowan to Henry Lowther, 27th August, 1733, *Appendix*, No. 62.

[2] From Robert Cowan and John Horne to Henry Lowther at Surat, 5th October, 1733, *Appendix*, No. 65.

session, and in order to regain them an army had been sent under the command of "Futtisoon" (Fateh Singh). They also said that the several forts had already been recaptured by Baji Rao, and that the island of Rajpuri was on the point of being closely besieged. They did not conceal that Raja Shahu expected that the Sidi would apply for assistance to the English; but the envoys, taking into consideration the amity that existed between their royal master and the English, hoped that the Sidi's request would not be complied with. Finally, they warned the English not to set any store by the Sidi's promises of friendship and good correspondence.

But Raja Shahu's envoys were not slow to perceive that they could not do things in their own way. The English met them point for point, and their replies had a ring of finality about them. "To which the President has returned answer, acknowledgeing the friendship & good correspondence that do's & has subsisted for many years with the Sou Rajah and his ancestors, & that the same good correspondence & friendship has subsisted betwixt this Government & the Sceedys of Rajahpore as subjects and Officers of the Emperor of Indostan." The President then continued in the plainest language. He asked the envoys to consider that their royal master had in the past failed to show any tokens of friendship. For the last twenty years he actually permitted Angria, who was no more than his servant, to commit hostile acts against all English subjects and to cause them a great loss of trade and commerce on this side of the coast. The envoys went home disappointed men.

Raja Shahu's envoys were successful in one thing, they convinced the English that Raja Shahu's intention was to make himself master of all the sea ports and fortresses which were formerly in the possession of the Sidi. It was evidently his ambition to become the most influential and powerful monarch in these ports. If he succeeded in his efforts, and followed the same line of policy as the Angrias, the trade of Bombay port would not only be threatened, but also ruined. Therefore, "it is the unanimous opinion of this Board," wrote the President, "for the interest and Reputation of our Honble Masters, to prevent as much in our power lays further progress of the Sou Rajahs troops in getting possession of the Sea ports on this Coast, that do and did formerly belong to the Sceedy; and that in order thereto we grant the Sceedy what assistance and countenance we can, in defending the Ports & fortresses they remain in possession of."

On the 15th of November, 1733, Sidi Sat landed in Bombay harbour with fifteen gallivats and two grabs, both from Anjenjo and Rajpuri; and at the same time Sidi Masud arrived with fifteen gallivats, three ships, a grab and a force of fourteen hundred men. In several conferences, that were held between these two Chief Officers and Messrs. Robert Cowan and John Horne, the situation of affairs was fully discussed, and measures were proposed to prevent the enemies from capturing the threatened forts and to recover the territories that had already been lost.

The clearest sign of the growing importance of the English Government were the flattering letters and proposals which they received at that time from Raja Shahu and Baji Rao—his General—one of the most sagacious and discerning statesmen that ever adorned the Maratha Empire. When besieging Rajpuri, he at first wrote in the name of the Raja of Satara to the President and Council at Bombay that he would not permit the English fleet to interfere with his operations. But shortly afterwards he sent a letter, dated the 23rd of November, inviting the English to act as mediators in order to settle the differences that existed between them and the Sidi. He even sent two envoys, Anand Rao and another from the Grand Vazir Nizam-ul-mulk (who was commonly called Chikles Khan), to treat the matter and come to an accommodation. But the English could not join hands with him then, because he was in alliance with the Angrias, who were the most unrelenting foes of the English.

Both the Sidis, on hearing this news, requested the English that a person or persons should be permitted to repair to Rajpuri to act as mediators, and afterwards to settle with the Sidis the terms of an alliance against the Angrias. The English hoped that, if such an alliance could be brought about, it would greatly weaken the power of the Angrias; for up to that time the Sidis had been satisfied with asking help from the English against the Angrias in the defence of their forts; but they had remained passive spectators in the struggle between the Angrias and the English. "As hitherto," wrote the President, "the Sciddys conniving at or rather countenancing him (Angria) in his depredations has been the principal cause why we have not hitherto been able to reduce him."[1]

It was therefore arranged to send Messrs. Henry Lowther and Francis Dickinson to Rajpuri to negotiate all these affairs.

[1] From Bombay to Surat, 23rd November, 1733, *Appendix*, No. 67.

In December of the year 1733, two treaties of defensive and offensive alliance were concluded between the English Government and the seven principal Sidis of Janjira with Sidi Yakut Khan as their representative. Of these treaties the one was public, the other private.

The purpose of these treaties was to establish a lasting basis of sincere friendship between the two parties. It was an alliance by which either signatory bound himself not to act in anything without the consent of the other. It was also settled that if one of the two parties should happen to be at enmity with a power friendly to the other party, the treaty should merely be defensive. Moreover, those on friendly terms with the enemy should make it their duty to interpose and to act as mediators. The forces of both Bombay and Janjira were to be respectively under the command of their own officers, yet the commander of the Janjira navy was to be subordinate to the Chief-Commander of the English forces, the latter being more experienced in sea-fighting. In case of Janjira being invaded by any power who was an enemy of both the Governments, Janjira was to be supported with all the naval resources the English had in Bombay; and if on the contrary Bombay were to be attacked, Janjira would come to its assistance with thirty gallivats and two thousand sepoys.

It was further agreed that all the prizes taken at sea by the united navies of the allied parties should be allotted to the English. But the territories that the combined land-forces might occupy were to pass into the hands of the Sidis. An exception was, however, made in the case of two forts. The Fort of Kenery, if recaptured from the Angrias, was to be restored to the English, and the Fort of Kolaba was to be razed to the ground. The contracting parties were also to divide equally the revenues and products of the Kolaba District—to enable the two parties to build a fort at Mohant (Mohpal) situated between the Pen and the Nagothana rivers. Both the parties were to go equal shares in bearing the charges of building the fort and of supporting its garrison. The expenses incurred to supply the necessary ammunition should likewise be borne by each party, though they should help each other in this regard, if it were possible.

Restitution was to be made to the person injured, in case of robberies being committed on either side. If deserters committed any crime which was punishable with the death penalty, they should be handed over by either party to their respective authorities. Under no circumstances were the Sidis allowed to

issue navigation passes to any people. If occasion should arise, and Kolaba were attacked, under such circumstances, the charges of maintaining their forces should be defrayed by both the parties. Finally, these articles were to be immediately put into execution after they were drawn up and signed.

These articles were signed, sealed and published on the 11th month of Rajab, the sixteenth of His Majesty's reign, or the 7th day of December, 1733.[1]

Besides these published articles, there was a secret treaty made between the Bombay Government and the Sidis of Rajpuri, which was likewise signed and sealed on the very next day after the treaty of defensive and offensive alliance was concluded.

The provisions of this secret treaty were mainly concerned with the policy to be adopted towards their common enemies, the Angrias. It was settled that a fleet was to be equipped, which meant that the Bombay Government would have to spend two lakhs. This sum of money was to be reimbursed in the following manner. The Sidis were to ask the Moghul Emperor or the Governor of Surat for a sum of three lakhs, which was equivalent to the tankha tribute. Of these three lakhs, the Sidi could keep one for himself, but the other two he had to give to the English.[2] The English by this treaty had obtained a great diplomatic victory. As a matter of fact from that day onwards the Sidi's authority began to dwindle into insignificance.

Before long the Sidis learned to what extent they had made surrender to the English. A few months after the treaty had been concluded on the 12th September, 1734, the Sidis, when they came to Andheri, brought with them fifty-two prisoners, without the President in the least being aware of it. These unfortunate men had been seized in an expedition made along the river Pen. When the English heard of it, they were not slow to inform the Sidis that this way of acting was in flagrant opposition to the treaty. The English energetically protested that, if these violences were continued, it would deter the merchants from venturing thither, which would cause a great detriment to the English trade. Therefore, the English obtained from them the release of the prisoners.[3]

In an entry of the Bombay Castle Diary, dated the 6th of December, 1734, we read that Sidi Masud Khan declared to the

[1] *Home Series,* II, pp. 61-2.
[2] *Ibid.,* p. 63.
[3] From the President to Surat, 13th September, 1734, *Appendix,* No. 69.

President that he was unable to pay his sailors, and that he requested of the English to advance him some money to pay the arrears due to his naval forces, else they were likely to desert him. He also asked the President to send a supply of a few guns and other stores for the use of his fleet. But the English, though not over-anxious, were not unwilling to comply with this request. It is true they had already incurred heavy expenses, and these expenses, though primarily benefiting the English, had also profited the Sidis. But the Governor's way of looking at things is clearly reflected in the following Memorandum. "We have already been at a considerable expense, in assisting the Sciddees to prevent the danger that wou'd attend this Settlement from their country falling into the hands of the Sou Rajah or Angria, in which case we shou'd be obliged to make a large addition to our force and consequently to our charges." Lest such a great evil should befall Bombay Island, the Governor thought it wise to persevere in the policy of giving pecuniary assistance to the Sidis. If he had any further doubts in the matter, these doubts were set at rest by the hope and conviction that the English would be repaid out of the money which the Sidi was to receive from the Governor of Surat. The President and the Council, therefore, came to the resolution to supply him with Rs. 5,000 and the necessary stores for the use of his fleet.[1]

In several conferences held between the President and Sidi Sat in the beginning of the year 1735 discussions took place as to the state of the Sidi's affairs, and once more the subject of the tankha came to the fore. Nothing could induce the Sidi to relinquish the least part of it, and he expressed great dissatisfaction at the English attempt to obtain it from the Surat Government. The tankha, said Sidi Sat, was the only source of revenue on which his countrymen had to depend for their support. Nor was this an exaggeration, and the repeated requests made by the Sidis for pecuniary help are the best proof that their country was very poor indeed.

Sidi Sat intended to proceed to the Surat Bar, and promised that on receipt of the money from the Surat Government he would make good and pay all the money that had been advanced to him by the English.

The English were fully convinced of the facts represented to them by Sidi Sat—namely their poverty and the danger that

[1] Bombay Castle Diary, 6th December, 1734, *Appendix*, No. 71.

threatened their country. "If we deny them our Assistance at this time," wrote the President, "they may be disgusted as to strike up a peace with the Sou Rajah by submitting to his yoke." Now this would be a most undesirable contingency, which the English had been trying their utmost to ward off. Therefore, the refusal of assistance to them would not only deprive the English of what the Sidis already owed them, but would also make the Sidis take sides with Raja Shahu and Angria against the English. Even if the Sidis were not immediately to break with the English, the refusal of English assistance would merely result in sending the Sidis to make raiding expeditions in the districts along the river Pen; and this would greatly impair British trade and commerce in those parts. Another good reason, which induced the English to help the Sidis, was their hope that on the arrival of the Sidis' ships their Surat Chief would be requested to act as a mediator in order to settle their claims about the payment of the tankha; and thereby the English would have the opportunity of reimbursing themselves as regards all their expenses. For these reasons it was agreed to advance to the Sidis a sum of Rs. 30,000.[1]

On several other occasions the English had to extend pecuniary help to the Sidi. Thus, for example, in the same year in the month of April the Sidi's sailors refused to embark for Anjenwell, unless a part of their pay and some provisions were granted to them. What could Sidi Sat do but once more appeal to the English for assistance? The President and Council thought it too dangerous to run the risk of refusing them a further supply; for the safety of the Sidi's southern forts depended entirely upon the protection afforded by their fleet. It was therefore decided to allow them a further amount of Rs. 4,000. Moreover, they consented to an advance of fifty "Morahs" of Batty. To pacify the Sidi's people with less than this amount was not possible.[2]

In the next place plans were put into execution by the Sidi for the recovery of the tankha from the Surat Government. As reported in a letter, dated the 27th of February, 1735, the President acquainted the board that he had received a letter from Sidi Sat to this effect. Twelve gallivats were already on their way

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[1] From the President at Bombay to Surat, January, 1734-5, *Appendix*, No. 72. Edwardes, *Rise of Bombay*, p. 142, quotes some part of the document which on comparing with our original document we find not quite faithful.

[2] Bombay Castle Diary, 12th April, 1735, *Appendix*, No. 80.

to the Surat Bar; Sidi Masud would follow them after a short interval of three to four days with another part of the fleet; and Sidi Sat would join the remainder later on. Yet the English feared that, in spite of this naval display, Tegbakt Khan would shirk a settlement. For he had always made it a point to thwart the English, and it was quite likely that in the present occasion he would do his best to put off the Sidis, and to refuse to hand over to them the money to which they had a right, on the pretext that the English meant to secure the tankha for themselves. Therefore, the English thought it prudent to keep their cruisers in readiness near the port. Thus they were ready to check any offensive move on the part of the Sidis, and were at the same time in a position to defend Kolaba, if the Angrias should make bold to deliver an unexpected attack against it.[1]

Meanwhile, another letter from the Surat Bar, dated the 14th of March, 1735, brought the news that the Sidis were still engaged in their piratical policy. They had seized and carried away several merchants' ships, and unless immediate steps were taken by the Bombay Government to prevail upon the Sidi to release them, the city would be in danger of ruin. The English fully understood that the Surat merchants were exasperated with the Sidis' piratical ventures, and that they would not agree to pay them any part of the tankha money till the ships were released. Hence, as a preliminary step the Bombay Government tried to induce the Sidis to bring the merchants' ships and their cargoes into the Bombay harbour. For it was probable that this measure would in all likelihood pacify the merchants with the thought that the goods were in safe hands, which would not be the case if the ships lay at Janjira.

Mr. Braddyll was appointed to proceed to Janjira to undertake the task of negotiating this affair with the Sidis. He was directed to use all possible arguments to persuade them to deliver up the ships into the hands of the English. He had also to assure them that the ships would not be returned to their owners, unless and until the tankha had been paid to them. The English wanted to keep on good terms with both the parties. Therefore, Mr. Braddyll was further instructed to ask the Sidis not to show themselves too unreasonable in their demands. If they listened to the English, the latter promised to do all that lay in their power to secure for them as large a sum of money as possible.

[1] From Surat to Bombay, 27th February, 1734-5, *Appendix*, No. 73.

The English advised Sidi Masud to leave immediately for the Surat Bar in order to settle the dispute about the payment of the tankha. If Sidi Masud should succeed in coming to an agreement with the Surat merchants, he should at once send a message to the English at Bombay, so that the ships ready to put out to sea could be informed that it was safe for them to proceed on their voyage and gain the benefit of the season.[1]

A few days after the arrival of Mr. Braddyll at Janjira the matter was settled. The Sidis agreed to allow the ships to be taken to the Bombay harbour and to remain there under the British protection. However, the Sidis specified that, if their demands were not complied with by the Surat Government within the space of twenty days after the arrival of the ships at Bombay, they should be at liberty to make use of the ships to the best of their own advantage. It was only after Mr. Braddyll had signed a promise to this effect on behalf of the Company, that an agreement was finally arrived at. At the same time Mr. Braddyll was assured by the Sidis that in order to prevent pilferage on the merchants' ships, "the ships Hatchways were all sealed". Up to that time nothing had been taken away from them except some timber of which the Sidis were in great need, and for which they promised to make compensation to the Surat Government.[2]

The merchants of Surat seemed to be thoroughly satisfied with this disinterestedness shown by the British in this transaction, as is easily gathered from Mr. Lowther's letter, dated the 26th of March, 1735.[3]

Immediately after the receipt of Mr. Braddyll's letter, a copy of it was dispatched by the President to Mr. Henry Lowther at Surat giving him instructions that the contents of it should be at once communicated to the merchants, as the time given by the Sidi was rather short.[4]

As soon as the Chief at Surat received this letter, he acquainted the Surat merchants with its contents. Thereupon, two meetings were forthwith held; but no definite conclusion was brought about. The whole fault of this failure lay with Tegbakt Khan. He was determined not to part with any money till

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1 Bombay Castle Diary, 16th March, 1734-5, *Appendix*, No. 75.

2 *Ibid.*, substance of a letter from Mr. Braddyll, 27th March, 1734-5, *Appendix*, No. 76.

3 *Ibid.*, substance of a letter from Henry Lowther at Surat, 28th March, 1734-5, *Appendix*, No. 77.

4 *Ibid.*, 28th March, 1734-5, *Appendix*, No. 78.

the merchants' ships were released; but we believe this was a hopeless request. However, the merchants, though they had but little hope that the Sidis would ever deliver up the ships before the whole of tankha had been paid, requested the President to offer to the Sidi a sum of Rs. 50,000. They offered this sum of money to get their ships back, for the loss of these ships would bring ruin upon their commerce and trade at Surat.[1]

Meanwhile, we may usefully refer to the chief cause of the Sidi's trouble, the threatened attack of the Angrias upon the Sidi forts. This attack had not come off successfully. Sambhaji Angria had failed to capture the Forts of Govalcote and Anjenjo by sea. Therefore, he was preparing to attack them by land. At this juncture Sidi Sat asked the English to send some of their vessels thither, in order to protect those forts from the enemy's attempts by sea. If the English did so, the Sidis would be in a position to concentrate all their forces against the projected land-attack. As usual this request was accompanied by a further demand for money and stores, as the garrisons of those forts were clamouring for their arrears of pay, and as there was a total lack of ammunition to carry on the defence. "It is agreed," wrote the President, "so far to comply with the Sciddee Saut's request, but that we acquainted him we are unwilling to put our Honble Masters to any further expence on their Accounts, till we see some progress made, or at least some prospect of their being in a condition to clear off part of their present debt."[2]

Accordingly, on the 16th of April, 1735, the ships *Neptune, King George* and *Princess Carolina* set sail for Anjenwell together with the Sidi's ships.[3]

The Sidis could no longer afford to wait. The time for settling the tankha affair had already expired. Moreover, in a letter Sidi Sat requested the President to release the Surat ships, as he had received orders from Sidi Abdul Rehman to that effect. The English could not refuse to comply with Sidi Sat's request; for, by refusing to do as he asked them, they would not only be guilty of a breach of public faith, but would also involve themselves into trouble with the Suraters and the Sidis. The only way open to the English was to

[1] From the Chief and Factors at Surat to the President at Bombay, 8th April, 1735, *Appendix*, No. 81.

[2] From the President at Bombay to Surat, 11th April, 1735, *Appendix*, No. 79.

[3] Bombay Castle Diary, 16th April, 1735, *Appendix*, No. 82.

prevail upon Sidi Sat to remain with the ships in the Bombay harbour till definite news was heard of the Surat proceedings.[1]

From an advice, dated the 19th of April, 1735, from the Chief and Factors at Surat, we gather that Sidi Masud on his arrival at the Surat Bar on the 12th of April, 1735, persuaded the English to wait on the Surat Governor, who in return requested them to induce Sidi Masud to come to the town, and gave them a solemn assurance that everything would be done for his safe return, even if the tankha affair could not be settled. But Sidi Masud refused to leave his gallivats, and the English at last agreed to meet him on an open gallivat. The Sidi asked for two lakhs of rupees and two thousand Mudas of Batty for which he held a written promise of the President. But no settlement was possible, and as there was not the slightest hope of reaching an agreement, the conference was broken up. On the 18th of the same month the Sidi's Vakil met the Surat merchants at the Factory, and made such extravagant demands that nobody took him seriously. As a matter of fact he claimed arrears of tankha for the last fifteen years.[2]

The merchants were in one respect more successful than Sidi Masud; for the Surat Government took measures to prevent Sidi Masud from carrying away any of the ships to the Bar. Orders were also issued to the commander of the *Britannia* that, if Sidi Masud could not be held in by persuasion, he should be restrained by force. "The insinuation of the Merchants," says John Horne, "that the Sciddees went to the Bar by our Advice is a scandolous return for the trouble we have taken upon their account," for it was only after the repeated requests of the merchants to send a person who could speak in the name of the Sidis, that Sidi Masud was entrusted with the task. The English merely acted as arbiters, and if the orders given to the commander of the *Britannia* were to be carried out, they would be forced to come to blows with the Sidis. The behaviour of the Surat Governor and merchants showed that they were little inclined to come to an agreement with the Sidis. Therefore, it was not desirable for the English to interfere in these matters.[3]

However, the English did not entirely follow a non-interference policy. The President had a conference with Sidi Sat, and

[1] Bombay Castle Diary, 25th April, 1735, *Appendix*, No. 83.
[2] *Ibid.*, from Surat to Bombay, 19th April, 1735, *Appendix*, No. 84.
[3] *Ibid.*, 28th April, 1735, *Appendix*, No. 85.

acquainted him that two lakhs of rupees would be paid to him on condition that the Surat ships would be released, and that the Sidis gave an undertaking that they were ready not to claim any arrears of tankha that were due to them. This proposal made Sidi Sat exceedingly angry; and he agreed to do neither the one nor the other. He simply asked whether the President supposed him and his officers to be children, that they should be coaxed into being satisfied with the paltry sum of two hundred thousand rupees, when nine hundred thousand rupees were due to them. He also called the President's attention to the fact that the need of the Sidis was so pressing that even nine hundred thousand rupees would not be sufficient to get them out of their trouble. He openly stated that he was sorry that he had listened to the English, for their advice, in spite of their assistance, had done the Sidis more harm than good. He was heartily sorry that he had not sided with the Portuguese, for with their help he would have been able to impose his own terms on the treacherous Governor of Surat. If he had joined the Portuguese, the Sidi's country about Cheule and other places would already have been recovered. Finally, he complained bitterly that, if Mr. Lowther at Surat had extended his protection to Chellaby's grab, and had sent boats flying the English colours to take possession of all the treasure on board the Surat ships, he would have had enough of cash to answer all their occasions. By this uncalled-for interference the Sidis had lost more than three lakhs of rupees.

Disgusted with the arrogant tone adopted by Sidi Sat, the President reminded him that even at that juncture Andheri was defended by the English fleet, and that the English had spent one hundred and fifty thousand rupees in supplying him with stores and ammunitions during his war with Angria. The President taxed him with ingratitude, for all this assistance was given him, though the Company had not the slightest hope of being reimbursed within a reasonable time.

But the President's arguments were of no avail. The Sidi did not want to listen. To lose more time with so unreasonable a disputant would be endangering the interests of the Company. Therefore, the President made the following sarcastic reply. Since the Company had been so ungenerous and ungrateful, the President expressed his willingness to leave the Sidis to themselves, and hoped that the Sidis would be able to find new friends abler than the English. He granted the Sidis leave to depart with the merchants' ships according to the former agreement

made with Mr. Braddyll, provided Sidi Sat would give some security that he would discharge the Company's debts. By way of conclusion Sidi Sat was informed that he would be given time to make up his mind, till Friday, 2nd May, 1735.

On the matter being presented by the President for approval by the Board the following was their unanimous opinion. "It is highly proper and necessary that a becoming resentment be shewn at the ingratitude of the Sciddee as a means to spur them on to come to some reasonable terms with the Suratters, & we thereby be able to secure some part of their large debt to our Ho Masters And when we find them truly sorry for their indiscretion, and their enemies so powerful that they cannot be supported without our assistance, We may easily take them by the hand again, if it will prevent their fall and keep out more dangerous neighbours."[1]

At Surat the English were more successful in their negotiations with the Surat Governor and the merchants than they had been with Sidi Sat. In a letter from Mr. Henry Lowther from the Surat Bar we learn that the Surat Governor and merchants had at last agreed to pay the Sidis two lakhs of rupees in lieu of all their past arrears. One lakh was to be paid immediately, and for the other lakh he gave an undertaking to the merchants who were to stand as security on behalf of the Sidis, that twenty-five thousand rupees would be paid in a month's time, and that the remaining balance would be made up on arrival of the released ships at Surat. It was added that from the last instalment a certain amount, equal to the value of such goods as the Sidis might have taken for themselves, would be deducted. In case the Sidis did not accept this agreement, the Surat merchants expressed their willingness to pay the English one lakh, provided the English prevented the Sidis from removing their ships from Bombay, and returned them to Surat. If the English were ready to do this, the merchants promised that they would try to obtain for them from the Moghul King a firman by which the full tankha of Rupees two lakhs per annum should be bestowed upon them. For rendering this service to the English the Surat merchants would only claim the various expenses which would be incurred by them for going to Agra. This sum would be considerably below the amount the merchants promised to pay to the English for restraining the Sidis from carrying off the Surat ships.

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[1] Bombay Castle Diary, 2nd May, 1735, *Appendix*, No. 86.

Sidi Masud on his first arrival at Surat had promised to follow the advice the English had given him. But, in spite of this, he managed to place his soldiers on board a grab belonging to Ahmed Chellaby. The Surat Chief remonstrated with Sidi Masud about this hostile behaviour, and ordered him to restore the ship. With this Sidi Masud did not comply, because Ahmed Chellaby and Mahomed Araft were in his opinion chiefly responsible for the delay in reaching a settlement to which both parties would readily agree. Mr. Lowther, too, exerted his utmost to induce Sidi Masud to remove his soldiers from aboard the grab; for by acting so unreasonably and committing fresh hostilities he was putting the English into trouble at a time when they were trying to settle the matter amicably. But the Sidi remained obdurate; he even made a preposterous demand that the tankha money should be paid to him on board the *Britannia*. He also treated Mr. Lowther with great contempt, and abruptly left him with the following threatening words: "The Sciddees might have an opportunity of letting the English see them in their old shape." In spite of the apparent break of friendly relations between the English and the Sidis, it was the general opinion of the Suraters "that the Sciddees proceed entirely by our advice".[1]

As has been stated, the final interview between the President and Sidi Sat was to take place on 2nd May, 1735. The President taking advantage of the opportunity told the Sidi in plain words that the English greatly resented his pretended friendship, which was a poor return for all the assistance they had rendered him. He also reminded him of "the unhandsome usage of the President at a former conference". However, it would seem that time had brought counsel, and that the Sidi was in a more sober frame of mind. Perhaps calm reflection had filled him with dismay at his own audacity. For before leaving, Sidi Sat asked the President's pardon for his behaviour, and added by way of excuse that his anger had been roused by the great disappointment at the failure of the Surat conference, when he fully expected that everything would come to an amicable end. The Sidi also did not fail to acknowledge that he was bound to the President by ties of gratitude. Moreover, Sidi Masud promised that the Sidis would not in future lay hold of any ships without the counsel and approbation of the English. Sidi Sat's apology appeased the anger of the President, who on his

[1] Bombay Castle Diary, 8th May, 1735, *Appendix*, No. 87.

part promised that the English would always be ready to prove themselves worthy friends of the Sidis. At last the President and Sidi Sat parted amicably.

But Sidi Sat did not take his departure on that very day, as he had intended to do. He had to prolong his stay in the hope that he would learn of the measures taken by Mr. Lowther and Sidi Masud in the Sidi's affairs.

On the arrival of Mr. Lowther with the final offer of the Surat merchants, it was decided to send for Sidi Sat on the afternoon of the 9th May, and try to prevail upon him not to refuse the merchants' terms, but to come to a final settlement of accounts with Sidi Abdul Rehman of Janjira. Until the Sidi consented to agree to this, the English were not in a position to hand over the Surat merchants' money. But the English were very sanguine; they rather felt inclined to believe that the Sidi would reject the offer. "But we much doubt," wrote the President, "they (the Sidis) will not give back so large a pledge, as they have in their possession for so small a sum at (as) two lack of rupees." In case Sidi Sat refused to accept the said offers, there was no help for it but to allow them to depart with the ships.[1]

Their fears proved only too well grounded. In spite of all this, the efforts of the English to bring about a settlement ended in failure. This we gather from a brief extract from a Bombay Castle Diary, dated 14th May: "Sailed the Sciddees fleet of Vessels with Sciddee Saut carrying back the Surat ships to the Gingeera."[2]

Lest Sidi Sat's action should cause trouble in Surat the Bombay President thought it right to convince the Surat merchants that the English had no interest in those proceedings; and to that effect it was to be publicly announced that no inhabitants of the Bombay Island or under the Honourable Company's protection should buy or use in any way the said ships. In order that none might afterwards plead ignorance of this resolution the President directed that it should be published in the English, Portuguese, "Moor" (Urdu or Persian) and "Gentoo" (Vernaculars in the Bombay Island) languages.[3]

It seems that the Sidis, who had departed for Janjira with the Surat ships on 14th of May, 1735, went once more to Surat in August of the same year, in order to adjust their differences with Tegbakt Khan. The latter at last consented to pay

[1] Bombay Castle Diary, 9th May, 1735, *Appendix*, No. 88.
[2] *Ibid.*, 14th May, 1735, *Appendix*, No. 90.
[3] *Ibid.*, 14th May, 1735, *Appendix*, No. 91.

two hundred and forty thousand rupees for arrears of the tankha and a hundred and fifty thousand for the current year. The former sum was to be paid in cash, and the latter sum was to be met with as usual. This agreement comes to us not only as a surprise but also as a puzzle; for the Sidis now contented themselves with twenty-six thousand rupees less than had been previously offered them. However, there is not the least doubt about their acceptance of a lesser sum of money, as is easily proved by a copy of the agreement despatched by the Surat merchants to the President on the night of the 20th of February, 1736. The passage runs as follows: "That the sum of two hundred and forty thousand rupees shou'd be paid them On Account their Old arrears of which eighty thousand was paid in hand and the remainder thousand rupees made good on restoring the Ships and Effects belonging to the place the embeezlement being first ascertained and satisfied."[1]

Perhaps it may be suggested that the Sidis agreed to the second less advantageous settlement because they hoped that the whole sum would be directly paid into their own hands, whereas according to the first agreement one lakh was to be handed over to the English. If this was the case, the Sidi did not after all strike a bad bargain, for once they had the money they could always put off the English on one pretext or another.

Whatever may have been the intention of the Sidis, one thing is certain. For once Tegbakt Khan did not disappoint them, and gave them the sum of fifteen thousand rupees as a guarantee of his good faith.[2]

Meanwhile, the Commanding Officer of the Sidi's ships, which were on their way to Danda-Rajpuri, being short of provisions requested the President to aid him with money. Naturally, the English could not afford to treat them with cold incivility at this important juncture, for they expected to recover a great portion of their debt out of the money the Sidis were about to receive from Surat. Hence, the Sidis were given fifty Mudas of Batty. At the same time the President did not fail to mention to Messrs. Sidi Abdul Rehman and Sidi Sat that they should give orders at Surat to allow the English to retain the lakh of rupees which had already been deposited in the English treasury by the Surat Government.[3] These events took place about the end of August,

[1] From Surat merchants to the President at Bombay, 20th February, 1736, *Appendix*, No. 94.

[2] Bombay Castle Diary, 11th August, 1735, *Appendix*, No. 92.

[3] *Ibid.*, 23rd August, 1735, *Appendix*, No. 93.

1735. The year ended, and yet the tankha business was not concluded. From a study of the records at our disposal the conclusion must be drawn that Tegbakt Khan was reluctant to part with his cash, and that he once more broke the promises he had made.

About the beginning of the year 1736, a series of meetings were held at Surat by the merchants in order to settle the Sidi's affairs. European brokers went to Sidi Masud to inform him that Tegbakt Khan was willing to fulfil his part of the agreement. They also inquired whether he made any further demands. But the Sidi's only answer was that "his principals Sidi Abdul Rehman & Sidi Sat casted it (the offer) off as not enough to satisfy their immediate necessities".

Though Sidi Masud refused to come to an agreement, he had courage enough to ask Messrs. Hope and Ramsden for help. But they excused themselves to interfere on the ground that Tegbakt Khan had requested the President to order his men not to mediate in any disputes. However, they sent two messengers to the Sidi asking him to expedite the final settlement as much as possible, and adding that they would not interfere in the affair unless they received positive orders from the President. Sidi Masud's answer remained unchanged. It was the same as he had given to the European brokers. Still, from his words it appeared that he was determined to close the business, and that he had sent a gallivat for the purpose to Janjira, with a pressing request to his principals to come to a reasonable accommodation.[1]

A meeting was called by the President to take into consideration the contents of the letter received from the Surat Governor on the night of the 20th instant. The helpless Governor once more craved for English assistance at Surat, where the English refused to take any steps in the absence of orders from the President. He also wrote that the merchants of Surat were of opinion that the commerce and trade of the English would be impaired, if the President did not allow them to give the help asked for. But the author of an article in the *Bombay Quarterly Review* states "that they (the English) would then have nothing to do with a man (the Governor of Surat) whom treaties could not bind".[2] This was only a secondary reason for refusing him their assistance. The primary motive was that their interference would not only involve them in a quarrel with the

[1] Bombay Castle Diary, 20th February, 1735-6, *Appendix*, No. 94.
[2] *Bombay Quarterly Review*, IV, p. 206.

Sidis, but would also deprive them of every hope to get from the Sidis their money. It was therefore decided to write a letter to Sidi Abdul Rehman at Janjira to give instructions to his officer, Sidi Masud at Surat, either to hold on to the terms of the agreement made during the previous year (1735), or accept any other reasonable terms they thought acceptable. Orders were also issued to the English gentlemen at Surat that, if they thought that there was some possibility of putting an end to the tankha transaction, they should employ their good offices, as much as they could, with this aim in view, namely to satisfy both sides, so that neither of them has cause to complain.[1]

The Surat Governor was left to make his own arrangements, in which he at last succeeded. On the 25th of February, 1736, it was agreed at a meeting of the merchants to send two of them to Sidi Masud to know his final views on the subject. It was now becoming clear that matters would soon be brought to an end.[2] And these hopes were at last fulfilled, for towards the end of February, 1736, the Sidi restored all the detained vessels to the merchants.[3] The tankha affair was finally settled. We would have had some hesitation in making this statement, if we had not the following extract from a Surat letter, dated 9th of March, 1736, to confirm our assertion: "They (the Factors at Surat) Cou'd not prevail upon Sciddee Mossoot to part with any ready Money, he being pressed to send down as much as he possibly could to Gingeerah to quiet their soldiers, and having been obliged to discharge some unavoidable demands made on him at Surat."[4]

[1] Bombay Castle Diary, 21st February, 1735-6, *Appendix*, No. 95.
[2] *Ibid.*, 25th February, 1735-6, *Appendix*, No. 88.
[3] *Bombay Quarterly Review*, IV, p. 206.
[4] Bombay Castle Diary, 16th March, 1735-6, referring to a letter from Surat, 9th March, 1736, *Appendix*, No. 97.

CHAPTER VI

MONEY TRANSACTIONS

(1736-1748)

The friendship between the English and the Sidis had one unexpected result. The Sidis profited by it to appeal time after time to the English for assistance as regards men, money and munition. Consequently this chapter is mainly a detailed account of endless money transactions.

To begin with the years 1736 and 1737: During that period the English had allowed a number of Sidi soldiers to join the English garrison of Fort Sion, in order to help the English to defend the fort against enemy attacks. Moreover, the English took advantage of their friendship with the Sidi to harass Angria whenever a good excuse and suitable opportunity made it possible for them to do so with impunity.[1]

But the presence of the Sidi soldiers at Fort Sion was on more than one occasion a source of considerable trouble; and expensive trouble it was. For instance, in May, 1737, a letter from Captain Inchbird at Sion to the President at Bombay brought the news that the Sidis refused to remain in that place, if they were not regularly paid. The English were not astonished at this ultimatum. Their only apprehension was that, if they acceded to the Sidi's request to pay them cash, they would have to pay a very considerable sum of money; for the Sidi's soldiers claimed a higher pay than even the English soldiers. Besides this, they did not deem it worth while to incur heavy expenses in order to make the Sidis stay at Sion; for the Sidis fighting men proved to be of a recalcitrant disposition; they did not care to obey the orders of a lieutenant, and each man acted on his own initiative according to his own sweet pleasure. Further, the English feared lest the Sidis should create disorder and confusion amongst the English soldiers, and thus would be a constant source of anxiety. They therefore determined to send back the Sidi's soldiers to Rajpuri. But in order that the Sidi might not be offended by their dismissal, the English presented every one of them with one full

[1] Edwardes, *Rise of Bombay*, p. 142.

month's pay, and offered a hundred rupees to each of their two Commanding Officers.[1]

Similar requests for money came from other quarters. On the 8th of April, 1738, two persons arrived from the Commanding Officers of the Sidis at Andheri to the President with a request to provide that place with Batty for the rainy season, else the garrison would be in great danger of dying of starvation. This time their request could not be granted. The Board observed: "We have not grain to supply & our Hon Masters Orders are very positive against making any further Loans to the Country Governmts; We hope the Sciddees Necessitys for Grain not be so pressing as they set forth." In order to soften the blow, the English informed the envoys that in case the Sidis were forced to leave the place for want of rice, the English would also withdraw their guns and stores from thence, and thereby the Sidi's debt would be considerably diminished. When the English adopted this plan they knew full well the evil consequences that would follow, if the islands were to fall into the hands of the Angrias. However, the circumstances were such that after careful consideration they did not think it advisable to yield to the Sidi's demands.[2]

But the Sidis did not pay any heed to this refusal. On the contrary, their demands became more frequent. They cleverly represented that, unless a supply of grain was sent to the Sidi garrison at Andheri, the place was doomed to fall into Manaji Angria's hands. For by this time Manaji Angria had already tampered with the loyalty of the Sidis, some of whom had deserted their own countrymen and joined him. These deserters had also affirmed that the remaining Sidis would deliver up the place.

So great was the helplessness of the Sidis that the President at last consented to supply their needs, provided they gave a security for the payment of the foodstuffs. Accordingly, the Sidis chose two persons of social importance and financial standing to stand as sureties on their behalf. But in all likelihood the helplessness of the Sidis was not the only nor the chief motive that actuated the President. There is every probability that the danger with which Andheri was threatened by Manaji Angria also exercised a powerful influence on the President's final resolve to help the Sidis. Anyhow, one thousand bags of Bengal rice

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[1] Bombay Castle Diary, 5th May, 1737, *Appendix*, No. 98.
[2] *Ibid.*, 10th April, 1738, *Appendix*, No. 100.

were delivered to them at the rate at which it was charged to the inhabitants of Bombay Island.[1]

Meanwhile, the Sidis proved themselves indefatigable beggars, but very poor payers. The gradual accumulation of their debts made the English very uneasy from time to time. In June, 1738, the President put before the Board the substance of a letter he had drawn up to be sent to Sidi Abdul Rehman, the governing Sidi at Janjira. In this letter the President requested him to find some means of paying off his debts as soon as possible. The President added that if he were not capable of suggesting any acceptable terms, he should not take it ill, if the English directly applied to the Surat Governor to settle the question of long-standing payments. The President said that he felt obliged to take this step, because he had received orders to that effect from the Court of Directors of the Company. The members of the Board approved of the contents of the letter; but the English gentlemen at Surat, as we learn from their letter of the 29th April, 1738, were of opinion that a more conciliatory measure should be adopted to recover the debt. They advised not to take any definite final step without the consent of the chief Sidi of Janjira. In spite of their opposition, the letter was sent to the Sidi. At the same time the gentlemen of Surat were directed to persist in their endeavours to persuade Sidi Masud to pay now Rs. 50,000. They were also to ask him to assign a portion of the 1739 tankha to the Sidis of Surat, so that the latter might have the wherewithal to discharge the remaining debt. The President even preferred this mode of payment by instalments, for he wrote "that by a hasty recovery of the whole (debt) we shou'd both disgust and distress the Sciddees, which we wou'd avoid if possible, as we shou'd soon feel the Ill Consequences thereof".[2]

Meanwhile, Sidi Masud's behaviour at Surat caused a great deal of anxiety to the English gentlemen there. From a letter, dated 28th June, 1738, we gather that Sidi Masud, the Chief Officer of Sidi Abdul Rehman, had become impertinent in his behaviour, and had even gone so far as to encourage one of the persons who was standing surety for the Sidi's debt, to carry off from Surat the goods that had been deposited by way of guarantee.

Up to now Sidi Masud had been impertinent with impunity,

[1] Bombay Castle Diary, 28th April, 1738, *Appendix*, No. 101.
[2] *Ibid.*, 16th June, 1738, *Appendix*, No. 102.

as though he were too small a person to call down the anger of the Company. But the gentlemen of Surat were of opinion that "the Stonness shewn in resenting Injurys will one day prove of the most dangerous consequence to our Honble Masters". It was the firm belief of the gentlemen at Surat that the Sidis evaded payment, because they felt assured that the English would on no account quarrel with them. In accordance with this belief they informed the President that, if an English force were sent to the Surat Bar to recover the Sidi's debt, the leader of the force should show great resentment for "all past Inquiries reced from the governmt". They also insisted on it that under no circumstances should the English consent to a further extension of time. Lastly, they desired that the President should send them a full statement of the Sidi's account together with any bond or note which the President at Bombay possessed at that time. [1]

This letter from the gentlemen at Surat naturally filled the President with anxiety. He was also much put out, because though fourteen days had elapsed, Sidi Abdul Rehman had not condescended to reply to the President's letter of the 16th June, 1738. In the absence of any reply from him, the President did not think it expedient to give any positive command to the gentlemen at Surat as regards the steps to be taken by them. But neither did he remain absolutely silent, for this was equally dangerous, as the Sidi would continue to put off payment, even when the "Honble Masters" were most pressing in their demands.

It would seem that the President saw in this matter eye to eye with the gentlemen of Surat, for he did not hesitate to make the necessary preparations. "It is agreed," says the President, "that three of the Cruizers be got in readiness to proceed to the Barr till after the full Moon, tho' we shou'd be glad not to be oblig'd employ them for Compelling the Sciddees pay their Debt as the recovery of the whole out of their Tanka, which at present is their only support, must drive them to Extremities; either to plunder for themselves or submit to the Sou Rajah, either of which we shou'd wish to prevent." [2]

At last Sidi Abdul Rehman's much belated letter arrived on the 4th of July, 1738; but the substance of it was not gratifying. It was rather disappointing. The Sidi only expressed his great

[1] Bombay Castle Diary, 28th June, 1738; *Appendix*, No. 103.
[2] *Ibid.*, 30th June, 1738, *Appendix*, No. 104.

regard for the English on account of the assistance they had given him in the hour of his need, and promised that he would see to it that the Honourable Company's debt was before long settled. He also added, "And he had accordingly repeated his Orders to Sciddee Mussoot for that purpose."

Similar promises were previously made, and always forgotten. The tankha was his only means of support and to deprive him of that was to render him absolutely helpless and powerless. However, the English were mindful of the fact that in all transactions between creditors and debtors the presence of the creditor himself has a greater effect upon the mind of the debtor than the most urgent letters he may happen to write. Therefore, the English thought it wise to send to Sidi Abdul Rehman a trusted person to discourse with him on the subject. It was not for the first time that they had entertained this idea, but, whereas formerly they were unable to carry it out, they were now in a position to act on it. Accordingly, they chose Mr. Thomas Stonestreet for this important and delicate mission, and gave him the necessary instructions.[1]

These orders are fully mentioned in the President's letter to Mr. Thomas Stonestreet of the 4th July, 1738. But to repeat them all here would serve no useful purpose, and therefore the reader is requested to refer to the appendix. Here it will be sufficient to mention the most important headings. It was impressed upon Mr. Stonestreet that it was the chief aim of the English to prevail upon Sidi Abdul Rehman to get a positive order for the immediate discharge of forty to fifty thousand rupees, and for the subsequent discharge of an equal sum of money within a period of twelve months. "However you must use Your utmose Endeavours," emphasised the President, "to prevail on Scydee Yaucon Caun for the present payment of as much more as possible and the Greater the sum you recover the more acceptable will it be to our Honble Masters and recommended you to their favour." From these pressing demands of the English for the immediate payment of the Sidi's debt we are lead to conclude either that they must have been badly in need of money at that time, or that they had been blamed by the Court of Directors for allowing the Sidis to delay so long the payment of their debts. As the Sidi was indebted not only to the Honourable Company but also to many inhabitants of Bombay, the latter used to appeal to the Bombay Government

[1] *Appendix*, No. 105.

for redress. The President therefore instructed Mr. Stonestreet to remind the Sidi also of the money due on that account.

Meanwhile, the Sidis sent in a counter claim for the money due to them by the English on account of expenses incurred on behalf of the English by the Sidis during the Maratha invasion of Salset. The English thought it best neither to refuse their counter claim nor even to dispute the settlement of the exact amount. As a matter of fact they could not raise any objection; if they should do so, "it will give them (the Sidis) a handle to Cavil and raise objections against our Account that may occasion delay".[1] In this matter we are not in a position to conclude whether the English settled these accounts in order to make it easy for Mr. Stonestreet to come to a successful settlement with the Sidi of Janjira, or whether they kept silent on the subject.

On the night of the 5th July, 1738, Mr. Stonestreet started for Janjira on board the *Dolphin*, and reached his destination on the 7th instant, in the afternoon. Perhaps he was not aware of the custom, prevailing among the Sidis of Janjira and perhaps among all the native princes at that time, that no business of importance was ever made allusion to in a first meeting. Apparently Mr. Stonestreet did not conform to this time-honoured practice, otherwise he would not have had occasion to write that he found Sidi Yakut Khan "very much indisposed" and quite unwilling to listen.

In subsequent visits, Mr. Stonestreet did all he could to make the Sidi realise the necessity of complying with the Honourable Company's demands. First of all he did not fail to mention to Sidi Yakut Khan that it was high time to recall Sidi Masud from Surat. On repeating the same request to Sidi Sambal, he discovered him to be a person of great influence in Janjira, for he was in command of the Fort of Danda-Rajpuri and of the army as well, and was held in high esteem by Sidi Yakut Khan.

But neither by pleadings nor by reasonings could these two Sidis be induced to recall Sidi Masud from Surat. Nor should we wonder at this, for Sidi Masud was the only capable person who could manage the Sidi's affairs there; and he alone might succeed in obtaining the usual tankha from the Surat Government. However, the Sidis assured Mr. Stonestreet that entire satisfaction would be given to Mr. Lambton, the chief at Surat, for the past misbehaviour of Sidi Masud towards him, and that

[1] Instructions to Thomas Stonestreet, Bombay Castle Diary, 4th July, 1738, *Appendix*, No. 106.

in future they would take all reasonable care to check any impertinence on the part of Sidi Masud, in order to preserve the friendship that existed between the English and the Sidis.

One of the main duties entrusted to Mr. Stonestreet was to obtain from the Sidi as much money as possible in partial payment of his debts to the Company. But he was not successful in this respect. "Tho' the Caun wou'd not pay any part of the Sciddees Debt to the Company in ready Money," wrote Mr. Stonestreet to Mr. John Horne, the Governor of Bombay, "it was with the greatest difficulty and after the warmest expostulation, he was prevailed upon to give any order upon the Surat Government to satisfy it out of their Tanka. He cou'd not forbear expressing some Jealousy that the English had some design upon the Tanka ; and for that end we wanted to have our Name creep into the Kings Books : adding that the Tanka was their Chief Support, which indeed is true."

But what was the cause of all this resentment and jealousy? The same letter, just quoted, gives us a clear account of what had taken place. Events had happened in Bombay that had roused the Sidi's indignation. In Bombay Island the Sidi's agents were on several occasions arrested by the English authorities. The cause of their arrests we do not know ; but what we do know is that their properties were mortgaged. Besides, the Court was bold enough to sell one of the Sidi's grabs to meet the payment of a private debt. In the opinion of Mr. Stonestreet this course of procedure was fully justifiable according to English law, but at the same time the Sidi resented it as a piece of uncalled-for interference, and looked upon it as a personal insult offered to him in the person of his representative.

At last Sidi Yakut Khan consented to pay the Company's debts by assigning to the English a part of the tankha to be paid by the Surat Government ; but he expressed himself unable to advance more than Rs. 25,000 per annum, which was the highest sum he could afford to pay during the year 1738. To that effect he was ready to give to Mr. Stonestreet an order for Rs. 25,000 only. But Mr. Stonestreet persisted in his endeavour to get as much as he could for the Honourable Company, his masters. At last he obtained the Sidi's promise to discharge the whole debt in two equal instalments. Moreover, he insisted on it that the Sidi should deliver forthwith the two orders that would enable the English to call for the money on the Surat Government ; for by this time Mr. Stonestreet had learned by experience that promises are more easily made than kept.

Evidently Mr. Stonestreet was a good businessman, and it was especially due to his unrelenting perseverence that the English succeeded in getting the Sidi to settle his accounts with them.

Meanwhile, the Chief and Factors at Surat persisted in their endeavours to bring round the Sidi's Vakil to discharge at least a part of the debt to the Honourable Company. Several fair promises were made, but they were not fulfilled. In these circumstances the arrival of the two English gallivats on the 9th of August, 1738 filled the people of Surat with alarm, because they thought that Gulam Mahomed, the brother of Tegbakt Khan, sent a message to the Duan to put an end to the disputes existing between the Suraters and the Sidis. On the 13th of the same month Sidi Masud paid a visit to the Chief at Surat and offered to pay Rs. 25,000. On the 15th he paid another visit in the company of the Duan, and this time he agreed to pay Rs. 40,000 during the current year, and the English expected that the amount would be entirely paid by the month of March, 1739.

It was really fortunate for the English to have concluded the matter, for on the evening of the very same day the news was brought to Surat that Sidi Abdul Rehman had died. If his death had become known a few hours earlier, the English would not have succeeded in coming to such a satisfactory conclusion.[1]

The amount of the charges incurred by giving presents by way of bribes to the Sidi's servants amounted to Rs. 130. Moreover, Captain Bagwell presented the Khan with two pairs of pistols and Sidi Sambal with Rs. 90.[2]

Whilst the English were thus engaged in recovering their debts from the Sidis, the Bombay President, Mr. Stephen Law, was informed by the Sidis that on the 7th of January, 1739 an engagement had taken place between the English fleet and that of Sambhaji Angria. But the English did not trust this report, as there was no way of corroborating the rumours which the Sidi spread.[3] All the same the English felt rather anxious; for about that time the British ships were sheltering in the Janjira harbour; and in a letter from the Bombay Castle Diary, dated Sunday the 21st of January, 1739, we read as follows: "With our Compliments to him (the Sidi) and to let him know we (the English) designed to stay there to clean our Ships & get Water,

[1] From the Chief and Factors at Surat to Bombay, 17th August, 1738, Bombay Castle Diary, 23rd August, 1738, *Appendix*, No. 109.

[2] *Ibid.*, 28th August, 1739, *Appendix*, No. 110.

[3] *Ibid.*, 8th January, 1738-9, *Appendix*, No. 112.

and in case he wou'd be so good to let us have some fresh provisions on paying for the same, We shou'd own ourselves greatly oblig'd to him, That Capt. Sandilands wou'd wait on him in the morning, & in case he cou'd help us with Boats to Water our Ships He would lay us under a Double Obligation." [1]

Their fears were only too well founded, for they soon received information that several ships had indeed been captured. The *Tyger* gallivat was among the captured ships, and the Chief of Surat discovered on examining the ship's master that the Sidis were implicated in her capture. The chief demanded her immediate release from Sidi Masud and threatened him that, if the ship was not restored to her owners, the whole matter would be communicated to the Bombay authorities. Thereupon, Sidi Masud confessed that his people had a hand in the affair, and promised to make restitution of the ship with everything on board. At the same time he gave assurances of taking all possible precautions to prevent the like from happening in future, and promised to reprimand the governing Sidi at Muzafferabad. [2] For it had already leaked out that the Sidi of Muzafferabad was in connivance with the "colley" (Koli) rovers, who were chiefly responsible for the outrage. The guilt of the said Sidi is confirmed by the instructions given to Captain Samuel Walker in April, 1741. This occurrence naturally created much unpleasantness, and of course the English felt not a little offended, and insisted on it that such gratuitous insults and injuries were not to be repeated, and that the harm done was to be effectually remedied. [3]

This untoward incident was in one way a blessing in disguise, for it enabled the Bombay President to urge the Sidis to put an end to their delay in discharging the heavy debt which they owed to the Company. Accordingly, with the consent of the Members of the Board, he proposed to remove the English garrison and stores from Andheri. The apparent reason for this move was to diminish the amount of the ever-accumulating liabilities which the Sidis were contracting. But the real reason was to make the Sidis pay off their debts. Before taking any action in the matter, the President determined to send Captain Samuel Walker [4] to the Sidi of Janjira, so that the latter

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[1] Bombay Castle Diary, 21st January, 1738-9, *Appendix*, No. 113.

[2] From Bombay to Surat, Surat Factory Diary, 16th March, 1740-1, *Appendix*, No. 114.

[3] Instructions to Captain Samuel Walker, 28th April, 1741, *Appendix*, No. 116.

[4] Bombay Castle Diary, 3rd April, 1741, *Appendix*, No. 115.

could not complain that he had not been either consulted or forewarned. The President was anxious not to afford the Sidi any "matter of disgust".

In the instructions given to Captain Samuel Walker there are a few details which throw a new light upon the matter, and which are worth mentioning. It was evidently the earnest desire of the Honourable Company to secure another portion of the Sidi's tankha[1] from the Surat Government; and great emphasis was laid on the need to provide for the complete or partial payment of the debt. "And if such an instrument can be obtained (from the Sidi)," wrote the President in his directions to Captain Samuel Walker, "we (the Honourable Company) shall esteem it an acceptable piece of service."

The position of the English was further strengthened by the report that, apart from the disgraceful conduct of the Sidi's Officer at Muzafferabad, several ships provided with English passes had also been detained by the Sidis, and had to comply with the most unusual and the most extraordinary demands for money made by the Sidis. Captain Walker was therefore instructed to get a solemn promise to the purpose that such events would not take place in future.

To make the Captain's mission less difficult, and to gild the bitter pill which he was to administer to the Sidi of Janjira, he was supplied with the following presents for the Sidi :

"Two ps. of Fine Gold Chints[2] value	90-0-0
"Two Chests of Rose Water......	
"Two Fuzzees[3]......	50-0-0
"Two small Musquettoons[4].........	30-0-0"

Finally, Captain Walker was given a general account of the expenses incurred by keeping an English garrison at Andheri. After accurate calculation, it was found that the annual expenses for maintaining the Fort of Andheri nearly amounted to Rs. 900. It was considered prudent to lessen the burden of the Sidis by withdrawing guns and other stores from that place. For the Sidi's total debt to the Company already amounted to Rs. 40,000. Therefore, it would be wise on the part of the Sidis, if they would agree to the proposal made by the English to remove from Andheri the said stores which the English promised to take back at their full value. By doing so,

[1] An assignment on revenue in favour of an individual.
[2] A printed cotton cloth.
[3] A light musket.
[4] A short wide-bored musket.

a considerable amount of their debt would be reduced, and as for the balance, the Sidis should assign to the English a portion of the tankha from the Surat Government.

From the instructions given to Captain Walker it also appears that the English did not fully trust their Sidi allies. For mention is made in them of the fact that the enmity which prevailed for a long time between the Sidis and Sambhaji had come to an end. The two parties had now become friends with a view to execute certain plans either against Manaji Angria, or against the English. Hence, Captain Walker was directed to investigate into the whole affair; for reliable information about it would certainly be of great consequence to the English.[1]

Captain Walker proceeded to Janjira. On the morning of the day after his arrival he began to address himself to the task entrusted to him. He first sounded the Sidi on the probability of obtaining on behalf of the English a portion of the tankha from the Government of Surat in payment of the debt due to the Company. But the Sidi evidently could not see his way to do so; he pleaded that the tankha was his only means of defraying the expenses of his state. Nor were his pleadings without effect on the English envoy. The following was the position of the Sidi in Captain Walker's opinion. "Here I beg leave to do the man Justice, who without any arguments of mine exprest himself with as much Gratitude, as far as words goes (go), as could be desired; saying it was a great concern to him the misfortunes of their state having lost the greatest and better part of their country, and what small part remained, the Morattas had half of their produce and that they had been obliged ever since the commencing of the warr to keep a great body of Forces for defending Govelcott[2] (a frontier garrison at Dabull River) than their distressed condition would afford, that place being continually in trouble and besieged at this time by a body of Twelve thousand men." Though Captain Walker fully realized the straits in which the Sidis were he could not afford to be satisfied with promises of payment. His instructions were peremptory. He pressed the Sidi so hard that the latter at last consented to give on behalf of the English an order on the tankha from Surat. But he first stipulated that he would have to ascertain from Sidi Masud the exact amount that remained to be paid.

Sidi Sambal acquiesced in the withdrawal of the forces and

[1] From Stephen Law to Captain Samuel Walker, 28th and 29th April, 1741, Bombay Castle Diary, 29th April, 1741, *Appendix*, No. 116.

[2] Near Chiplun.

stores from Andheri; but on Captain Walker presenting him with an account of the remaining stores, the major portion of which were the gunpowder and balls, the Sidi expressed his earnest desire to keep guns, shots and powder, and agreed to give orders to Sidi Battall to return all the other stores. It would appear that the President at Bombay and the Board did not approve of this concession made by Captain Walker; for they wanted no ammunition whatever to be left at Andheri. But the controversy that followed is nowhere recorded, so that it is impossible to say whether the Sidi returned or was deprived of the ammunition he was so anxious to have.

When Captain Walker remonstrated with the Sidi about the seizure of the merchants' gallivats by the gallivats of Anjenwell and Janjira, the Sidi flatly denied that he was in any way responsible. He pointed out that the officers of his gallivats had been plainly instructed not to meddle at all with the English subjects. But he was not so innocent as he pretended to be, and the particulars which the English were able to furnish clearly established his guilt. Thereupon, Captain Walker insisted on the Sidi making good the losses his men had inflicted; for if no reparation were made British prestige would be considerably impaired. In the words of Captain Walker: "It equally concerned the Credit of their Government as it did the Government of Bombay that he should disown the conduct of his Officers, and make satisfaction to our Merchants for what they had been sufferers." The Sidi therefore ordered a strict enquiry to be made, and wrote to Sidi Sat at Anjenwell, asking him to explain his share in the transaction. He also promised fully to redress all the damage that had been inflicted.

A few months before Captain Walker went to Janjira, the Bombay Government had published a set of Regulations regarding the use of arms. According to these rules no armed sepoy of any neighbouring state was allowed to land either in Bombay Island or in places adjacent to it. Captain Walker asked the Sidi that his people should conform to this rule.

As regards giving up a part of the tankha, the Sidi hesitated to commit himself till he heard from Surat. Captain Walker proposed to him to send one of his "writers" (accountants) to Bombay to compare accounts and to settle the business once and for all. This the Sidi promised to do. But such promises had already more than once been made in the past without ever being kept. Hence, Captain Walker requested the Sidi to confirm all his promises in a letter to Mr. Stephen

Law, the Bombay Governor. Captain Walker thought this to be the best method of bringing the business to a conclusion.[1]

At last Captain Samuel Walker having finished the task entrusted to him by the Honourable Company returned from Janjira to Bombay. His arrival there may be gathered from an entry in the Bombay Castle Diary dated the 15th of May, 1741. As the Sidi had consented to return "certain stores", and had agreed to the withdrawal of the English garrison from Andheri, the President ordered that a vessel should be prepared for the purpose, in order that they might be brought back to Bombay. These instructions were carried out, and the following list gives a detailed account of the several articles received.

"........... Stores recd.

"........... from Undery."

Unfortunately, we do not find in the document any particulars regarding the amount of stores received from Andheri. However, one point must be made clear. The phrase "certain stores" leads us to believe that the gunpowder and other ammunitions were left at that place for the use of the Sidi.

The Sidi had also sent his agents to make enquiries into the full amount of money due to the Company. In this he was acting according to Captain Walker's proposal. The President directed that an accountant should be appointed to act in concert with them. The accountant was requested to ask for the articles that were not damaged, "the same price as they stand charged to them".[2]

In September, 1741, the Chief and the Factors at Surat had accepted from the Sidis the sum of Rs. 25,000 which was the balance of the amount due to them according to the statement prepared by Sidi Masud Khan. The Bombay Government approved of their acceptance; but on comparing Sidi Masud's accounts with theirs, they found a deficit of Rs. 1358-2-15. They trusted that the governing Sidi at Janjira would make good the difference; for in his letter dated the 16th August, 1741, he made "a full acknowledgement of the justness of the accounts tendered him". In order to elude further controversy and delay the President applied to Janjira and asked the Sidi to settle the remaining debt.[3] But the Sidi

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[1] From Captain Samuel Walker, regarding the affair of the Sidi of Janjira, to the Governor of Bombay, 11th May, 1741, *Appendix*, No. 117.

[2] Captain Walker's Report concerning his deputation, Bombay Castle Diary, 15th May, 1741, *Appendix*, No. 119.

[3] Bombay Castle Diary, 18th September, 1741, *Appendix*, No. 121.

kept quiet, and about eight months afterwards, in April, 1742, things were exactly where they had been, the balance of the debt remaining unpaid.[1]

The English did not intend to allow the Sidi to continue to ignore his debt. They kept sending urgent requests, and at last they hoped to get what they wanted. Already in April, 1742, the Chief and the Factors at Surat wrote: "This place is in perfect peace tranquility and our business carried on without any interruption and we have the pleasure of acquainting Your Honours of our having got a third assignment, on this Government for the Ballance of the Sciddees debt." Pressing demands were incessantly made for that purpose and it was expected that the balance of the Sidi's debt would be paid by the end of September, 1742.

The Marathas had not been idle, for in the same letter of April, 1742 we are informed that the Marathas had captured a large ship belonging to the English at Surat, and estimated to be worth four lakhs of rupees. This ship had been intercepted on its way to Juddah. But at the same time the hope was expressed that the English would be able to obtain the release of the ship by paying the Marathas a certain amount. The Marathas were ready to give up the ship in return for payment, because they hoped by this step to acquire for themselves the duties which the Sidis had up to now enjoyed and which the English were equally anxious to obtain. Even if they failed in their attempt to secure this advantage the Marathas were confident that in future they would be able to force all traders and merchants to buy and to make use of their passes.[2]

It is but natural that the English felt greatly annoyed at the way the Marathas had improved their financial position. What made their annoyance still greater was that their own financial transactions with the Sidis were not exactly prospering, because in a note dated the 8th of April, 1742, Sidi Masud Khan begged of the Chief of Surat to forego all pecuniary claims during the current month, as he had to meet several other engagements. For certain some parties had been sent to Surat by the governing Sidi of Janjira to ask for an advance out of the custom duties. He was compelled to send a considerable sum to Janjira, as the Marathas were becoming trouble-

[1] Bombay Castle Diary, March, 1741-2, *Appendix*, No. 122.

[2] From the Chief and Factors at Surat to the Court of Directors, April, 1741-2, *Appendix*, No. 123.

some. The Chief, however, did not mean to accept the Sidis' excuses and informed the President at Bombay of this.[1]

When the Sidis did pay they did so in the most irregular fashion, their second assignment not being completely paid up till the 5th of June, 1742, when we already learn from the letter of 8th April from the Surat Chief to the Duan, that Rs. 2,000 had already been paid in consideration of their third assignment.

It is peculiar to note here the way in which the English passed a receipt to the Sidis when one of their assignments was completely paid up.

"WHEREAS it was stipulated and agreed upon the 20th day of January, 1739-40 with Sciddee Moossoot Agent for the Sciddees in Surat and the English Chief & Council on behalf of the Honble United English East India Company that the said Scidee Moosoot should pay in the space of one year from the above date to the said Chief & Council the sum of forty Thousand Rupees as part of payment of what the Sciddees are Indebted to the said Honble United English East India Company, and whereas the said sum of forty Thousand Rupees has been paid into their Cash at Sundry payments by the Government in Conformity to Scidee Mossoots assignment on Teg Beg Caun for the above sum dated according to the Mahomedan stile the first day of Ziccau in the year 1152 therefore this writing is given Scidee Moosoot as a receipt for the said sum of forty Thousand Rupees to which the Secretary hath by an Order affixed the Honble United English East India Companys seal dated Surat Factory the 5th Day of June 1742.

1740			
May	31	Received into cash	2000 „—
June.	7	Do.	1500 „—
July	5	Do.	1000 „—
	18	Do.	500 „—
Sepr.	12	Do.	10000 „—
Novr.	13	Do.	2000 „—
	16	Do.	950 „—
	17	Do.	375 „—
	25	Do.	565 „—
Decr.	1	Do.	500 „—
	3	Do.	1000 „—
	7	Do.	500 „—

[1] From the Chief of Surat to the President at Bombay, 8th April, 1741-2, *Appendix*, No. 124.

Decr.	8	Received into cash	... ...	350 „—
	12	Do.	... ...	425 „—
1740/1	15	Do.	... ...	1500 „—
	25	Do.	... ...	400 „—
JanUy.	4	Do.	... ...	1500 „—
	20	Do.	... ...	1500 „—
Febry.	10	Do.	... ...	278 „—
1741	25	Do.	... ...	1500 „—
March	29	Do.	... ...	500 „—
July	23	Do.	... ...	10000 „—
	31	Do.	... ...	1157 „—
			Rupees	*(torn)*"[1]

If Sidi Yakut Khan was not eager to pay he at least was anxious to please. He never failed to mention in his letters which followed one after another the value he set by his friendship with the English. In a letter to the President received on the 27th of August, 1742 he begins thus : "I am day and Night Meditating how to perpetuate the Friendship, hitherto subsisting between my Family and the Honble Company and from the said Company have we recd remarkable tokens of Good will, for on occasion when Warlike attempts were undertaken against Our Place we never failed of meeting with a ready Assistance from Bombay." Such was the flattering tribute paid to the President and the Council at Bombay, and there is little doubt that this expression of gratitude was fully deserved. For ever since the English had made with the Sidis a defensive and offensive alliance (1733), the English had at all times tried their level best to give a helping hand to their allies whenever it was possible.

Presently, the English had another occasion to show that they were always ready to stand by the Sidi. The Sidis enemies were preparing an attack upon the Fort of Anjenwell, and Sidi Yakut Khan naturally turned to the English for help. At first Sidi Masud at Surat had applied to the English to supply him with guns to arm his grabs, but the English did not comply with his request. Hence, his master Sidi Yakut Khan once more addressed himself to the English and asked them for assistance.

But the guns were not the only things required by the Sidis. From a letter sent by his servant "Mulna Omar", the President

[1] Surat Factory Diary, 5th June, 1741-2, *Appendix*, No. 126.

learnt that the Sidi expected to be provided with both a loan of money and the necessary assistance for the protection of the Fort of Anjenwell. This request placed the English in a strange predicament. If they were to supply the Sidis with the guns, the Marathas would also expect the same from them. As the Sidis had not yet repaid their debts, the English naturally felt reluctant to grant the asked-for assistance. Whether Sidi Yakut Khan was provided with his necessary requirements or not, the records do not give us any clue.[1]

The year 1743 is absolutely silent on the subject. In May, 1744, according to Sidi Yakut Khan's own statement in a letter to the President, he was indebted to the Company to the amount of Rs. 38558-3-39. But several small payments had been made, so that by that time the account books show the balance sheet of Rs. 2401-54. The Chief and the Factors at Sūrat were intimated to show to Sidi Masud the acknowledgment of the debt which Sidi Yakut Khan had made to the President, and to make use of every means of persuasion in urging him to pay the full amount due.[2]

Sidi Masud promised to discharge the balance of Rs. 2401-54 due to the Honourable Company, as soon as his ships returned from the Red Sea. In the meantime, he begged of the President to allow his grab which lay anchor in the Bombay Harbour to proceed to Surat at the end of the rainy season.[3] But the President was fully determined not to yield to this prayer till their claim for the balance had been completely settled. Accordingly, he did not fail to inform the Chief and the Factors at Surat of his determination.[4]

These money transactions between the English and the Sidis did not in any way interfere with the plans of the enemies of both parties. In August, 1742, the Sidis' Fort of Anjenwell was in imminent danger of being attacked by the Angrias. In February, 1745, the Fort of Andheri was threatened with a similar danger. This news was brought to the President by a messenger from Sidi Belal, the Commanding Officer at that place. He sent word that Andheri was about to fall into the hands of

[1] Translation of a letter from Sidi Yakut Khan, Bombay Castle Diary, 27th August, 1742, *Appendix*, No. 127.

[2] From Bombay to Surat, Surat Factory Diary, May, 1744, *Appendix*, No. 129.

[3] From Sidi Masud at Surat to the President at Bombay, Bombay Castle Diary, 31st July, 1744, *Appendix*, No. 130.

[4] From Bombay to Surat, reply to the letter of the 31st; 3rd August, 1744, *Appendix*, No. 131.

Manaji or Taluji Angria, and asked that no delay should be made in coming to the assistance, otherwise the Angrias would surely succeed in capturing the fort. So pressing was the necessity of Andheri being fortified, that Sidi Belal agreed to pass a bill on Sidi Masud for Rs. 2295-52 reas in payment of the stores supplied to them by the English. The English could safely advance this money and even double the amount if necessary, for the Sidi's grab lying in the Bombay Harbour was valued at Rs. 5,500. This was surely sufficient for the payment of the present expense.

It is needless to repeat here in detail the application which the Sidis had already made for the protection of the Fort of Andheri to Robert Cowan, the then President at Bombay some twelve years back, that is on the 13th of July, 1733. However, we may note here that after mature deliberation upon the subject it had then been decided that the safety of Andheri was of greater importance to the Island of Bombay than that of any other place. Accordingly, the English had helped the Sidis to strengthen the fortification of Andheri; and their policy had been approved by the Court of Directors in their letter of the 11th March, 1734-5 per ship *Scarborough*.

Taking all these facts into consideration the Honourable William Wake and the Council unanimously came to the conclusion that a like force "one hundred fifty soldiers be sent thither (Andheri) whereof fifty are to be Europeans and one Hundred Topasses exclusive of petty Officers also ten of the Gunkoot crew all under the command of James Sterling and Ensign Hugh Cammeron to undertake the Defence thereof under the English flag".

The Sidis were no doubt very slack in discharging their debts, as the English had more than once experienced in the past. Now the estimate regarding the cost of provisions for the detachment to be sent to Andheri amounted to Rs. 3,000 per mensem. The English therefore determined to impose certain conditions on the Sidi. They told him that if at the end of a year the Sidis were not in a position to defend the Island of Andheri and to pay off all the debt incurred during that period, then the English would be free to sell the Island to any neighbouring power in order to recover the expenses. But we believe that by inserting this proviso the English wanted to make it possible to keep Andheri for themselves. Of course, the Sidi's messenger readily and gladly assented to whatever demand the English made. But his promise did not bind his master, as long as it had not been

ratified by the latter. The English were perfectly aware of it, but acting on the principle "Nothing venture, nothing win", they decided to help the Sidi all the same. For in the words of the President, "He (the Sidi) is a friend and check to both these powers".[1]

But this invasion of the Island of Andheri never came off. By the end of May, 1745, all danger had disappeared. Therefore, Mr. William Wake thought it best to reduce the military expenses by putting Andheri under the command of an Ensign who was provided with four months' provision for the maintenance of his staff.[2]

It has been previously stated that during the year 1744 the English President had forcibly detained by way of security Sidi Masud's grab lying in the Bombay Harbour. After nearly two years, on the 14th of March, 1746, the "Noquedah" (the Captain?) of the Sidi's grab was more than anxious for her release. But Sidi Masud had been too slow in paying off what was rightly due to the Honourable Company, and therefore in order that he might bestir himself in this respect, the President deemed it absolutely necessary to hold on to the grab. Of course, the "Noquedah" gave assurances of informing his master to settle the matter as soon as possible. But the English were not satisfied with promises; they determined to detain the grab until the "Noquedah" had been replied to.[3]

Seeing that the "Noquedah's" efforts were unsuccessful, Sidi Masud requested Mr. Hope, the Chief at Surat, to use his influence for the release of his grab, for it would seem that he was badly in need of it. So Mr. Hope wrote to the Bombay President and pleaded Sidi Masud's cause. The latter had promised in return "to get the Gov. of Surat to accept of our Pishcash (tribute) of 10000 Rs. & his and the Customers Annual Bursunt (Bill) of Rupees 2600 being paid him by Transfer on the Sciddees Tanka". This being acceptable to the Honourable Mr. William Wake, the grab was permitted to proceed to Surat.

It may be noticed here that although the Sidis were very slow in discharging their debts, the English did not stand to lose much, as the cost of fortifying Andheri had been reduced to the small sum of Rs. 649-1-88 reas per month. The Board

[1] From Sidi Belal at Andheri to the President at Bombay, 13th February, 1745, *Appendix*, No. 132.

[2] Bombay Castle Diary, 30th May, 1745, *Appendix*, No. 133.

[3] From the "Noquedah" of the Sidi's grab to the President, Bombay Castle Diary, 14th March, 1746, *Appendix*, No. 134.

was of unanimous opinion to preserve Andheri partly for their own interest and partly for the interest of the Sidis.[1]

Hardly had the grab been released when Sidi Masud, on the 1st of July, 1746, applied to the English for "six four Pounder and six six Pounder iron Guns" for her use. The store-keeper was instructed to deliver the required articles at Rs. 18 per cwt., taking care to observe the following mercantile rule: "Cash against delivery".[2]

Though Andheri continued to be coveted by the Angrias it was never actually attacked by them. When the writers of the Company drew up the separate account of the expenses incurred in connection with Andheri during the period extending from January to June, 1747, the expenses included Rs. 2682-4-1 rea for the fortification of the place and Rs. 1320-0-83 reas for military stores and foodstuffs. The total debt of the Sidis at the end of the year 1747 amounted to Rs. 4002-4-84 reas, and this amount was acknowledged to be correct by the governing Sidi at Janjira, and was returned signed on the 17th of June, 1747.

As Andheri was never in imminent danger of being attacked, Sidi Belal the Commanding Officer, having nothing to do, besieged and captured the Fort of Thull, which was in the possession of Manaji Angria. Being unable to protect the captured fort, the Sidi requested the President to supply him with four hundred Mussalman Sepoys for a period of one month with sundry other stores. This request placed the English in a difficult position. Of course, they did not approve of Sidi Belal's warlike attempts for they had themselves acted as mediators at the peace concluded between the Sidis and the Angrias in the year 1737. By this treaty the District of Thull had been ceded to Manaji Angria. Therefore, unless Manaji Angria had given Sidi Belal serious cause for complaint, it was absolutely unjust on Sidi Belal's part to start a hostile campaign against the Angrias. The President at Bombay proposed to write a letter to Manaji Angria in order to assure him that the English had no share in the affair. The President also wrote to Sidi Belal for an explanation of his strange way of acting thus. The English made it a point to return evasive answers to Sidi Belal's

[1] From Mr. Hope to William Wake, 26th April, 1746, *Appendix*, No. 135.

[2] From Sidi Masud at Surat to the President at Bombay, 1st July, 1746, *Appendix*, No. 136.

requests for help; for measures taken by him had been a matter of disgust to them.[1]

In February, 1748, another account was drawn up. According to this account the Sidis owed the English Rs. 9420-1-94 reas for the maintenance of the English troops at Andheri for the period extending from July, 1747 to February, 1748. In this connection it may perhaps be asked why the English Forces had not by that time been withdrawn from Andheri. The reason of their protracted stay was apparently caused by some misunderstanding which had arisen between the various parties. This is clearly proved by the following entry in the Bombay Castle Diary: "It appears by Letters also at the same time that he (Sidi Belal) as well as the Governing Sciddee at Gingerah are desirous of having our People and Prahims[2] withdrawn from Underee as the Misunderstanding that was between them at the time those Vessels were sent as noticed in the Diary under the 8th October and in Consultation the 8th December last is now amicably adjusted."[3] The Board directed that a copy of these accounts be sent to the governing Sidi at Janjira for his approval, and that an order be obtained from him on Sidi Masud at Surat for payment.[4]

But from the Consultation of the 8th of March, 1748 it appears that the accounts were not sent for approval to the Sidi at Janjira but to Sidi Belal at Andheri. For in the Bombay Castle Diary the President remarks: "The Sciddee at Underee (having) this day has returned the Account mentioned in Consuln the 16th ultimo, signed and approved to the end of January (1748)." It was only then that the accounts were transmitted to the Sidi at Janjira for his approval and signature together with a request for an order on Sidi Masud at Surat as usual.[5]

The account was returned duly signed with a bill on Sidi Masud for Rs. 9120-1-0 on Wednesday the 13th of April, 1748. The bill shows a difference of Rs. 300, but it was discovered that the Sidi had deducted the amount for ten Morahs of Batty supplied to him in December, 1747, which amount had been inserted in the account through some oversight, as the Sidi had already passed a bill for the same. This was discovered in the consultation of 15th of December, 1747, and the Sidi's corrected account was accepted.[6]

[1] Bombay Castle Diary, 17th June, 1747, *Appendix*, No. 140.
[2] Prahn or prow, a general term for small craft.
[3] Bombay Castle Diary, 8th March, 1748, *Appendix*, No. 142.
[4] *Ibid.*, 16th February, 1748, *Appendix*, No. 141.
[5] *Ibid.*, 8th March, 1748, *Appendix*, No. 142.
[6] *Ibid.*, 13th April, 1748, *Appendix*, No. 143.

CHAPTER VII

TROUBLES AT SURAT

(1748-1756)

After the money transactions with the Sidis had finally been disposed of on a satisfactory basis to all parties, the English came next into trouble with Sidi Masud at Surat.

Sidi Masud was a man of great ability, but he had a genius for getting other people into trouble, as the English were soon destined to experience. It was indeed an evil day for the English when Sidi Masud began to take an active interest in the affairs of Surat, for this active interest was a source of countless troubles to the English.

In order to get a clear view of the situation the following facts must be borne in mind. In 1746, Tegbakt Khan, the civil and military Governor of Surat, died. After his death the civil administration of the City was entrusted to Safdar Khan, and the military command of the Surat Castle was given to his son Wakhar Khan.[1] This arrangement was greatly prejudicial to Tegbakt Khan's son-in-law, Mian Achan, also called Mai-ud-din, who thus found himself deprived of every vestige of civil authority and military power.[2]

Sidi Masud made friends with the discontented Mai-ud-din, and began to plead his cause with the English. The Surat Factory Diary tells us that on the 22nd of October, 1748, "Sciddee Mossoot visited the Chief this Day and after compliments and Expressions of Friendship, talked on the unhappy situation of Affairs in this city (Surat),— & said that nothing but the uniting in the cause could prevent the ruin of Surat". When the Chief of Surat asked the Sidi what cause he was speaking of, the latter replied that he meant the cause of Mai-ud-din Khan. From the same entry in the Surat Diary it would appear that in championing Mai-ud-din's cause, Sidi Masud had offended several of the principal people, notably Mulna Farikodeen and Sawlie Chellboy, two rather mysterious personages of whose doings the unpublished documents are altogether silent.

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[1] Aitchison, *Treaties, Engagements and Sanads*, VII, pp. 387-8.

[2] *Bombay Gazetteer*, XI, p. 445.

The Chief of Surat was ready to play the part of mediator between the offended parties, and he did so with good effect, for after some difficulty "they (Mulna Farikodeen and Sawlie Chellboy) were likewise reconciled. They all agreed that nothing but their and Principal Inhabitants uniting in Mainodeen Caun's Interest could put an end to the long depending troubles."[1] Thus Sidi Masud proved himself a useful champion of Mai-ud-din's cause and succeeded in securing for him the support of the people of Surat. The result was that in the same year 1748 Mai-ud-din obtained the government of the city and the command of the Castle.[2]

Mai-ud-din's success was not destined to be permanent. First of all the dispossessed Governor Safdar Khan and his son Wakhar Khan started a campaign of intrigue to regain what they had lost. Besides this Sidi Masud abandoned the cause of Mai-ud-din, and now worked heart and soul to make him lose the friendship and protection of the English.[3] The Sidi's change of front is evidenced by a letter from Mai-ud-din, dated the 8th of February, 1749, and addressed to the President and Council at Bombay. The letter runs as follows: "As there is sincere friendship subsisting between us, which I am desirous of seeing increased, and it shall be so while I am living, I am well satisfied of Your Honours not giving Credit to what several persons have wrote against me."[4]

That Sidi Masud was one of these persons may be gathered from the following extract, which in the unpublished documents is entitled: "Another Separate Paper", in which Mai-ud-din explains why certain people in Surat are turning against him to join Sidi Masud. "As the Slaves of Begler Caun, Amanulla Caun &c had pickt out a great deal of money forceably from the inhabitants in Teg Beg Launs time & are grown very rich, they are now afraid of my calling them to account, therefore have taken Scidee Mussoot's Protection, causing great disturbance by the said Scydees Encouragement which is a great Scandal to my Government."[5]

The President tried to pour oil on troubled waters, and

[1] Surat, 22nd October, 1748, *Appendix*, No. 144.
[2] *Bombay Gazetteer*, XI, p. 445.
[3] *Ibid.*, p. 447.
[4] From Meah Atchund to the President and Council at Bombay, 8th February, 1749, *Appendix*, No. 145.
[5] From Meah Atchund to the President and Council at Bombay. "Another Separate Paper," 8th February, 1749-50, *Appendix*, No. 145.

wrote a conciliatory letter: "I am extremely desirous of your Governments being made easy to you, and that the People be so likewise, I therefore directed Mr. Dorill, and Mr. Lambe to use his Endeavours on all occasions for that end and for procuring peace and tranquility to the City."[1]

These hopes of a peaceful settlement were not realized. In 1751, Safdar Khan and his son Wakhar Khan gained the upper hand over Mai-ud-din, and deprived him of the government of the City.[2] But they were not satisfied with this, and assured of Sidi Masud's support they made preparations to deprive him also of the command of the Castle. In order to effect this, they profited by an unexpected affray between the English and Sidi Masud. In this affray the English were the aggressors. Mr. Lambe, the Chief of the English Factory at Surat, so far from being peaceful in his attitude towards the Sidis, inflicted unprovoked injuries upon them. This aggressiveness was objected to by the Bombay Government; for after the Surat trouble had started Mr. Lambe and the Factors were asked by the Bombay Government to justify their way of acting. The result was that they sent to Bombay a detailed account of the measures they had taken; but this account did not meet with the approval of the Bombay Government, and the Bombay Castle Diary mentions one by one all the pleas of justification brought forward by Mr. Lambe, and to every one of them is appended a refutation showing in each case the insufficiency of the alleged excuses.[3] He even went so far as to burn the Moghul King's Fleet, an act which was not a little resented by the ruler of Delhi.[4] Moreover, the testimony of Messrs. Savage and Sulivan is evident proof of Mr. Lambe's high handedness. "The arguments the Sciddee makes use of in his own Favor, particularly that, regarding the commencing the War, We hear by all hands to be very just."[5]

That the relations between Sidi Masud and the English were more than strained is borne out by an entry in the Surat Factory Diary on the 22nd of November, 1751: "Came advice that our

[1] From the President and Council to Meah Atchund, *Appendix*, No. 145.

[2] *Bombay Gazetteer*, XI, p. 445.

[3] Bombay Castle Diary, 29th May, 1752, *Appendix*, No. 203.

[4] Substance of Mulna Ibrahim's conversation with Sidi Masud, Ship *Hector*, Surat Bar, 6th February, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 164.

[5] Ship *Hector*, Surat Bar, 11th February, 1752, *Appendix*, No. 169.

Ketch, Sloop & Galevats were come into Domus, & had there landed a Party of Men, & carried off some Goats, & Cows, killed a Woman, & a Boy, and wounded two Seapoys belonging to the Sciddee." Thereupon, the Sidi ordered the seizure of "all English Boats and people". Eventually, the release of the boats and the people was obtained through the help of the Dutch intervention. But the Sidi was in no way appeased and treated both Mai-ud-din and the English with marked hostility.[1]

An entry in the Surat Factory Diary on the 25th of November, 1751 runs as follows: "The Castle, (where Mai-ud-din was still in command) & Sciddee Battery fired Briskly on each other but with little Execution."[2] On the following day the Sidis continued to press, and so great was their success that the entry of the 27th of November, 1751 gives us the following information: "The Government & Sciddees People pressing the Castle very hard this day, and having made their approaches very near it it is reported Meah Atchund has sent a Person to Treat with them."[3] However, Mai-ud-din held out with grave determination, and it was not till the 24th of December, 1751 that "The Firing ceased between the Castle and Batteries; and people from Suffdir Caun and the Sciddee went to the Castle, as it is reported to treat with Meah Atchund".[4] By the 30th of December, 1751, Mai-ud-din was unable to hold the Castle any longer for himself. It was expected that he would surrender it in three or four days. Hence, a conference was held at the Sidi's house on the following day where Mai-ud-din's Officers heard of the arrival of the Bombay Grab.

Her unexpected arrival raised for a moment the highest hopes in Mai-ud-din's Officers. They started bargaining, and "raised their demands so much that the meeting broke up without coming to any agreement".[5] The Sidi's people were equally excited. They surrounded the English Factory on all sides and did not allow a single person to pass in or out of it, till they were informed of the reason and purpose of the coming of the ships. But Mai-ud-din's hope of British assistance did not materialise, and on the afternoon of the 1st of January, Mai-ud-din surrendered the Castle into the hands of Sidi

[1] Surat Factory Diary, 22nd November, 1751, *Appendix*, No. 146.
[2] *Ibid.*, 25th November, 1751, *Appendix*, No. 146.
[3] *Ibid.*, 27th November, 1751, *Appendix*, No. 146.
[4] *Ibid.*, 24th December, 1751, *Appendix*, No. 146.
[5] *Ibid.*, 30th and 31st December, 1751, *Appendix*, No. 146.

Masud, and Sidi Sabaun was sent to take possession of it with a force of three hundred men.[1]

Messrs. Henry Savage and Laurence Sulivan who were sent by the Bombay Government to settle the Surat troubles were most eager to receive a copy of the treaty between Mai-ud-din and Sidi Masud. But though eight days had already passed, they were still in complete ignorance of the terms.[2] The cause of this delay was probably that the terms were as yet not properly drawn up. Meanwhile, all kinds of rumours spread in the city, but they were so extraordinary that it was impossible to consider them as reliable information. On the one hand it was reported that the Sidi was to give Mai-ud-din three lakhs of rupees and suffer him to retire to a private house in the Town with all his movables. Others said that he was to become Governor of Ranial, a town about a mile away from the Castle.[3] On the contrary the English in the Factory were of opinion that no treaty had been signed, and Mr. Lambe wrote : "Nor do I now find the Sciddee will sign any Treaty with Meah Atchund but only as he promises Pay Him a Sum of Money & suffer him to retreat & live in a private manner in Town."[4]

Mr. Lambe and others were practically confined as prisoners in the English Factory. Messrs. Savage and Sulivan, therefore, decided to ask Sidi Masud to obtain the release of the English. As they did not know how they could best reach Sidi Masud they at last determined to send as their messenger Monsieur Boucard, a Frenchman, who played a very impartial part in the negotiations between Sidi Masud and the English.[5]

At the same time the necessary instructions were given to Captain David Basset and Captain James Sterling as to the best means of protecting the English Vessels from the Sidi's batteries.[6]

Monsieur Boucard undertook the task, and on the 26th of January, 1752 he for the first time communicated by letter with

[1] Surat Factory Diary, 1st January, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 148.

[2] From Henry Savage and Laurence Sulivan to James Henry Lambe, Ship *Prince Henry*, Surat Road, 10th January, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 151.

[3] From Lambe to Savage and Sulivan, 8th January, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 151.

[4] From Lambe to Savage and Sulivan, Surat, 14th January, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 151.

[5] From Savage and Sulivan to Boucard with a letter to Sidi Masud, Ship *Prince Henry*, Surat Bar, 19th January, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 152.

[6] From Savage and Sulivan to Captains David Basset and James Sterling, *Appendix*, No. 154.

those who had sent him. He wrote that he was of opinion that Sidi Masud was really desirous of concluding a peace treaty with the English on a lasting foundation. But the Sidi was anxious that the pourparlers should be carried on as privately as possible, so that not even Mr. Lambe might become aware of them lest by his inopportune interference the hope of arriving at a peaceful settlement should fail to materialise. Monsieur Boucard suggested that Sidi Sabaun was even willing to have a personal interview with Messrs. Savage and Sulivan, provided they guaranteed his safe return.[1]

Now in the instructions given to Captain David Basset, he was directed to act thus : "You are on receipt of this, if the winds and tides permit, to weigh anchor with the Defence and all other vessels under your command and proceed round Ombra point."[2] He carried out these instructions, but naturally the appearance of the vessels at Ombra gave umbrage to Sidi Masud. This contretemps, occurring at the time when Monsieur Boucard was on the point of sending on his second report to Messrs. Savage and Sulivan, prevented him from communicating with them.[3]

Now it is quite true the English had ordered Captain Basset and James Sterling to anchor their vessels off Ombra, but at the same time they had instructed them not to start hostilities.[4] To put an end to all the trouble the English promised to give orders that their vessels should return to Dentelowry. The English were of course anxious that peaceful relations should be re-established between Sidi Masud and themselves, and they did not fail to inform Monsieur Boucard of the terms on which they were ready to make peace. They wrote to their Envoy : "Extremely glad we should be able to have an interview with Scidee Sabaun, of whom we have heard a very good character and for his safe return we have no other security in our power to offer, than our solemn word and honour which we pledge to you and him in the most sacred manner. We Sir, can have no interested views, we have done with India, our only motives for coming hither is to serve the Honble Company and restore Peace if practicable to Surat, to effect which

[1] From Boucard to Savage and Sulivan, Surat, 4th February, 1752, *Appendix*, No. 155.

[2] From Savage and Sulivan to Basset, *Appendix*, No. 154.

[3] P. S. in *Appendix*, No. 155.

[4] Instructions to Basset, *Appendix*, No. 154; from Savage and Sulivan to Boucard, 5th February, 1752, *Appendix*, No. 155.

our privileges must be confirmed agreeable to our Phirmaunds, our charges repaid us, Atchund restored to the Castle, the liberty to build our Factory at our own gardens, the effects lost in the Latty made good to us, with some other points of less moment, all which you confess are just and reasonable demands, and we are thus particular as you have desired to know our expectations."[1]

The promise of the English to order all the vessels from Ombra to return to Dentelowry seems to have been fulfilled; for an entry of the Surat Factory Diary, dated 27th February, 1752, shows us that Sidi Masud replied to the letter of the English which had been first entrusted to Monsieur Boucard on the 19th of January, 1752. In this letter the English absolutely denied that the trouble had originated through their provocative way of acting, and in emphatic terms asked for the release of Mr. Lambe and his companions. They also informed Sidi Masud that they were anxious to have an interview with Sidi Sabaun, for a personal interview would be more effective than any number of letters in bringing about the desired peaceful settlement. But instead of complying with this request Sidi Masud began to argue that the English were responsible for the trouble, which had resulted in causing great losses to the inhabitants of the City of Surat. He did not take any steps to release the Englishmen that were imprisoned in the Factory.[2]

Not satisfied with having engaged the services of Monsieur Boucard, the English selected a certain person called Mullah Ibrahim to act as go-between and messenger of Sidi Masud and themselves. This new Envoy had formerly served under Captain Inchbird at Janjira and Rajpuri, and was also on good terms both with Sidi Masud and Sidi Sabaun. He was recommended to them by "Jaggernaut" (Jaganath), a friend of the English, on the evening of the 31st December, 1751.[3]

But even the additional influence of Mullah Ibrahim did not prevail with Sidi Masud, and the expectations of the English to have a meeting with Sidi Sabaun were frustrated. Monsieur

[1] From Savage and Sulivan to Boucard, 5th February, 1752, *Appendix*, No. 155.

[2] From Sidi Masud to Savage and Sulivan, Ship *Prince Henry*, Surat Bar, 27th January, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 156.

[3] Ship *Prince Henry*, Surat Bar, 31st January, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 159.

Boucard wrote, "Scidee Sabaun was on the Point of setting out, but some persons with Evil Intentions for the Publick Good, have put stones in your affairs, and he cannot now go".[1] Sidi Masud proved relentless as ever. Instead of taking any active steps he was content with simply making professions of friendship. But the English were not taken in by these ill-disguised promises. By this time they knew that it was Sidi Masud who was chiefly instrumental in preventing the asked-for interview between Sidi Sabaun and the English; for in connection with this interview Sidi Masud had written: "He (Sidi Sabaun) will come, but to what end, untill I know your Intentions."[2] Nor were the English ignorant of the fact that Sidi Masud was not acting on his own accord, but was being led by Dutch influence. In a letter dated the 2nd of February, 1752, Messrs. Savage and Sulivan informed the President and Council at Bombay of this: "Our greatest Difficulty is Dutch Influence, or by this (time) we should have had a Conference with Sidi Sabaun."[3]

As there was no hope of effecting a peaceful settlement by writing endlessly long letters, the English were satisfied with briefly writing to Sidi Masud: "We again desire that you will permit Scidee Sabaun to come to us, when we pledge you the Word & Honour of Honest Men for his safe Return."[4]

The days dragged into weeks, and nothing was being done. The English, whose patience was by this time exhausted, made up their mind to serve Sidi Masud as he had served them. So when Sidi Masud again communicated with them they replied as follows: "We received Your Letter Yesterday concerning Sciddee Sabaun that we before wrote to you about, we are now of the same opinion, that what we have to say is not proper to put in writing. If you dont care let him come to us, send him to Dentelaoury, where we will send Jaggernaut Loodass (an old friend of Sidi Sabaun)[5] to meet him, when they will talk over everything that is necessary, this we do for

[1] Ship *Prince Henry,* Surat Bar, 1st February, 1751-2, *Appendix,* No. 160.

[2] From Sidi Masud to Savage and Sulivan, Ship *Prince Henry,* Surat Bar, 1st February, 1751-2, *Appendix,* No. 160.

[3] Savage and Sulivan to the President and Council at Bombay, Surat, 2nd February, 1751-2, *Appendix,* No. 161.

[4] From Savage and Sulivan to Sidi Masud, 1st February, 1751-2, *Appendix,* No. 160.

[5] Ship *Prince Henry,* Surat Bar, 1st February, 1751-2, *Appendix,* No. 160.

the benefit of You and the People, in Surat, if you dont agree, Do you set in the City and we will set here, and after that, any thing that God pleases will take place."[1]

When the negotiations had thus for a long time been at a complete standstill, Mullah Ibrahim, the Envoy whose services the English had engaged in addition to those of Monsieur Boucard, returned on the 6th of February, 1752 from his first mission with letters from Monsieur Boucard and Sidi Masud. He also had to report to them his own personal interview with Sidi Masud. Monsieur Boucard's letter was short. The only consolation he could offer the English was to have patience as the affairs were taking a good turn.[2]

Sidi Masud's letters showed that he was bent on making things as difficult and as unpleasant as possible for the English. He wanted the Dutch to act as mediators. "The Friends that made Peace must come in between to settle this affair also."[3]

Mullah Ibrahim's conversation with Sidi Masud showed that the latter's resentment of Mr. Lambe's behaviour was not yet appeased. At the same time Sidi Masud stated that he wanted strictly to adhere to the treaty "Which was signed by our Chief & Council, the Honble Company's Seal affixed, and witnessed by the Mediators; which Treaty ought to be kept". This is an allusion to a treaty of which mention is made in the compilation of Aitchison's *Treaties*. "During these dissensions, the Castle fell into the hands of Sidi Masud of Janjira and Rajpur. The English Factory was in great danger, and through the influence of the Dutch, a peace was negotiated between the Agent at Surat and the Sidi; by which all English troops were to be withdrawn and the establishments reduced to the footing on which they stood in time of peace."[4] But the English authorities in Bombay repudiated this treaty. Mullah Ibrahim was of opinion that unless the opposition of the Dutch should be removed the City of Surat was on the verge of ruin. However, in the end Sidi Sabaun proved himself a more reasonable man. As soon as he heard that the English had repudiated the treaty and even determined never to subscribe to it, he

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[1] From Savage and Sulivan to Sidi Masud, Ship *Hector*, Surat Bar, 3rd February, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 162.

[2] From Boucard to Savage and Sulivan, Surat, 6th February, 1752, *Appendix*, No. 164.

[3] From Sidi Masud to Savage and Sulivan, 6th February, 1752, *Appendix*, No. 164.

[4] Aitchison, *Treaties, Engagements and Sanads*, VII, pp. 389-91.

expressed his willingness to comply with their request for an interview. Thereupon, Sidi Masud proposed that Sidi Sabaun and his Secretary should first betake themselves to the Dutch, and inform them of the demands which the English put forward. In case the Dutch should not approve of the English demands, Sidi Masud professed his willingness to renew the struggle with the English, provided the Dutch should take an active leading part in the struggle by attacking the English ships anchored at the Bar. For he was not anxious to face the English single handed, and he made it equally plain to the Dutch, that "If the Dutch should decline this (that is, attacking the English ships) he would then begin a Conference, desiring Mulna Ibrahim to let us know, if we would send Jaggernaut to Dentelowry he would order Sabaun to meet him there provided HOSTILITIES were not determined".[1]

The English felt convinced that the Dutch would never dare to attack them. This conviction led them to make the necessary preparations for the proposed meeting at Dentelowry. Instructions were issued to Captains Basset and Sterling to adopt measures so as to safeguard themselves against any treacherous design of the enemy. Evidently the English were far from trusting Sidi Masud and on this occasion they displayed greater circumspection than they had ever done before. At the same time the English authorities sent two short letters to Monsieur Boucard and Sidi Masud, expressing their earnestness that Sidi Masud would finally comply with their request.[2]

Fortunately, the conviction of the English that the Dutch would not venture to attack them proved correct; for we learn from an entry in the Surat Factory Diary of the 10th of February, that the information had been sent by Monsieur Boucard's letter to the effect that Sidi Sabaun, accompanied by a Persian Writer, would start for Dentelowry on the morning of the 21st of February, 1752. Preparations were at once made to receive Sidi Sabaun with all due marks of respect; and for that purpose the following orders were issued to Captain Basset: "As we hear Scidee Sabaun intends to come down to Dentelowry with some Distinction, and if he comes on board of You, besides saluting him with seven Guns, coming & going, acquaint Capt. Sterling that he with his Soldiers must be drawn up to receive

[1] Substance of Mullah Ibrahim's conversation with Sidi Masud, Surat Bar, 6th February, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 164.

[2] Ship *Hector*, Surat Bar, 7th February, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 165.

him—If he does not come on board of You, he is only to be saluted with seven Guns, when Jaggernaut meets him & when they part, and our former orders no way altered."[1] Meanwhile, the Dutch, who were not a little disappointed because Sidi Masud had abandoned their cause, made it a point to intercept every letter which the English wrote to Sidi Masud. But the latter was to such an extent the tool of Dutch influence, that instead of remonstrating with them, he maintained an outward show of friendship towards them. But he assured Mullah Ibrahim that the dispute between the English and himself would before long be settled. His friendship with the Dutch was, however, considerably undermined by the following occurrence. One day while Sidi Masud and Mullah Ibrahim were conversing together, 'Muncher' (Muncherjee), a Dutch broker, paid a visit to Sidi Masud to deliver to him one of the letters which the Dutch had intercepted. Upon his arrival Mullah Ibrahim retired to a short distance, and sat by the side of Sidi Sabaun. But the distance between them was so short that Sidi Sabaun could overhear the conversation that took place. He heard Muncherjee bring a false accusation against him that he was carrying on a private correspondence with the Government of Bombay, with a view to bring about the ruin of Sidi Masud. At the mention of his name bitter words were exchanged between Sidi Sabaun and Muncherjee. The result was that Sidi Masud did not in the least believe the Dutch broker's story, and threatened him with vengeance if he did not leave off his villainous practice.

"THE CONCLUSIONS that we draw from the above" (are the following) : wrote Messrs. Savage and Sulivan, "That Sciddee Mossoot is so strongly cemented with the Dutch, who have Sufdir Caun to make a proper use of, That if we are able to baffle the Dutch, which our distance & Situation will render extremely difficult, Sciddee Mossoot will most certainly insist on an adequate Security, if he drops their Alliance ; & the issue now in appearance is, That We must engage to support and protect him against any other Power ; and as we are treating with a Conquerour who is too well acquainted with our Weaknesses and Inability to distress him, consequently we have a little expectation of doing our Honble Masters the service we wish".[2]

At last the agitation that had lasted so long ceased ; for a

[1] Ship *Hector*, Surat Bar, 10th February, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 166.
[2] *Ibid.*, *Appendix*, No. 167.

letter from Captain David Basset dated "*Defence* 11th February" brought the news at 9 o'clock in the morning that Sidi Sabaun arrived at Dentelowry with two hundred men but refused to come on board the *Defence*. However, his intentions seemed good for he agreed to put himself and his people entirely under the protection of the English. But he kept only fifty persons with him as a body guard, and dispersed the rest. Jaggernath started with Captain Sterling, Ensign Funge, six Sergeants, twelve other persons and a Subedar with some Sepoys to meet him on shore. At half past one in the afternoon the conference ended.[1]

This first conference was apparently held between Jaggernath and Sidi Sabaun, and Jaggernath's report tells us of what took place. First of all, Sidi Sabaun refused all the terms of a peaceful agreement which the English proposed. For it would seem that the Dutch had advised Sidi Masud never to give up his cause, and even had expressed their willingness to supply him with money in order "To stand by them in every respect whatever". At the end of the meeting Sidi Sabaun desired to have an interview either with Mr. Savage or Mr. Sulivan at Dentelowry or Dumus. To acquaint the English with this request he ordered Jaggernath and Mullah Ibrahim to start immediately for that purpose.

It stands to reason that the English found themselves in a strange predicament. On the one hand they wanted to impose their own terms, on the other hand they were not able to enforce these terms by a recourse to arms. Their hopelessness to carry on the war was clear not only to the Sidi, but also to all who had the slightest knowledge of their position. They themselves admitted their weakness. "The large Expence the Honble Company are daily at here is a Circumstance that requires our utmost attention. For these reasons we are of opinion, we ought to embrace all opportunitys of finishing this Affair, as soon as we possibly can and even to condescend, as occasions may offer, to things which at another time might appear imprudent." Therefore, they were only too glad to meet Sidi Sabaun, and a meeting was arranged on board the *Hector*. So anxious were the English that an interview should take place, that they gave instructions to Jaggernath and Mullah Ibrahim how to act if Sidi Sabaun felt reluctant to come on board the *Hector* on grounds of personal danger. In such a case their

[1] From Basset on board the *Defence*, 11th February, 1752, *Appendix*, No. 168.

Envoys, Jaggernath and Mullah Ibrahim, were immediately to send for Captains Sterling and Funge, who would remain with the Sidi's people as hostages to guarantee their master's safe return. If this security proved insufficient, Mr. Daniel Draper, the Secretary of Messrs. Savage and Sulivan, should also be called as hostage. Furthermore, if Sidi Sabaun was even then unwilling to come on board the *Hector,* "Mullah Ibrahim (Mulna) and Sciddee Sabaun to go (should) upto Town, to endeavour to prevail upon Sciddee Mossott to meet up both at Ombra".

Privately, Mr. Draper was instructed that if in spite of all these offers of hostages Sidi Sabaun would not condescend to come, a meeting should be arranged on board the *Defence* at Dentelowry, where either Mr. Savage or Mr. Sulivan would be present to receive him. The English proposed this latter plan, because they did not wish that Sidi Sabaun should go back without coming to any settlement. For if Sidi Sabaun should leave them in an angry mood, the English would not only lose the most favourable opportunity, but the Dutch would also take advantage of the occasion to further their own interests to the best of their ability.[1]

But nothing could induce Sidi Sabaun to come on board the *Hector,* for on Wednesday the 12th of February, 1752, Mr. Draper returned at six in the evening with the news that Sidi Sabaun would hear of no other arrangement but that either Mr. Savage or Mr. Sulivan should meet him at Dentelowry. Therefore, it was decided to send Mr. Savage on the following morning to meet him.[2]

Mr. Savage started for Dentelowry early on the morning of the 13th of February, 1752. The meeting took place on that very day, but very little of consequence was transacted. The chief point to be decided was how far Sidi Masud would comply with the terms which the English proposed. But this was a matter of great importance which Sidi Sabaun alone could not settle. Hence, it was proposed that Sidi Masud should be requested to meet Messrs. Savage and Sulivan; and Mr. Savage was requested to prolong his stay to the following morning when an answer would have come from Sidi Masud. On Friday the 14th of February, at nine in the morning, Sidi Masud's answer had arrived. Being unwell Sidi Masud said that he could not come on board the ship, but he sent his Secre-

[1] Ship *Hector,* Surat Bar, 11th February, 1751-2, *Appendix,* No. 169.
[2] Ship *Hector,* Surat Bar, 12th February, 1751-2, *Appendix,* No. 171.

tary and his son with no other reply but this, that he consented to hold a meeting with the English. Mr. Savage insisted on it that Sidi Masud should come on board his ship if he at all desired a meeting. The Secretary and the son of Sidi Masud promised to inform their master of Mr. Savage's request. At the same time they proposed that Mr. Savage should land and meet Sidi Masud ashore. "If we (the English) could go ashore," they said, "He (Sidi Masud) would meet us without any soldiers to show that he was under no apprehensions." [1]

Now as has already been said the English were more than eager to have a meeting with Sidi Masud. Their fighting capabilities were at such a low ebb, that they were ready to give up several important points rather than press them too urgently, if, thereby, they could pave the way for a final settlement of the dispute.[2] Their trade was being considerably injured by their being involved in the Surat troubles. They were on the whole less anxious to gain military glory than to improve their pecuniary assets. Messrs. Savage and Sulivan wrote to this effect to the Court of Directors : "It is true we might very probably by waiting for the Morattas have made Surat a Scene of Blood and carried some points to raise our name though not our credit, which we conceive to be politicks destructive to your Honour's interest and although in all human probability disturbances may speedily take place betwixt the Present ruling Powers, yet if our Peace is attended to it will be our own faults if we are not neuter and surely, late experience has taught us to feel the consequences of entering into War with these Governments, may one day prove fatal to your affairs."[3]

But in spite of their eagerness to make peace, they had such a deep distrust of the Sidi, that they hesitated to grant his request to meet him ashore. In that perplexity they turned for advice to Monsieur Boucard who gave it as his opinion that they had no occasion for their apprehensions, and assured them that, once they had made friends with the Sidi, they would find little difficulty in obtaining from him what they wanted.[4]

[1] Ship *Hector*, Surat Bar, 13th and 14th February, 1752, *Appendix*, No. 172.

[2] Ship *Hector*, Surat Bar, 23rd February, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 179.

[3] From Savage and Sulivan to the Honble the Court of Directors, *Triumph* prahn, Surat River, 28th February, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 182.

[4] From Boucard to Savage and Sulivan, Ship *Hector*, Surat Bar, 17th February, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 174.

They sent Mullah Ibrahim to demand hostages of the Sidi before they consented to the proposed interview. Moreover, they confessed to Monsieur Boucard that if the Sidi refused to send hostages, they could not comply with his request as regards the place of meeting.[1] Accordingly, on Monday the 17th of February, they instructed Mullah Ibrahim to urge upon the Sidi the expediency of sending the hostages so as to arrange for an early interview, as they considered it impossible to settle their affairs by any other method. They attempted to turn to good account the news that had spread in the town that the Marathas were within forty miles of the town, and in order to do this they further instructed Mullah Ibrahim to inform the Sidi that the advent of the Marathas would make it impossible for them to continue to negotiate with him.[2]

This time Mullah Ibrahim proved a successful ambassador and, on Friday the 21st of February, he returned in the company of Jaggernath with the satisfactory news that Sidi Masud had graciously listened to the message of the English, and had consented to come on the morrow to Ombra for the interview.[3] But no interview appears to have taken place on the appointed day. However, on Sunday the 23rd at 2 p. m., Sidi Sabaun and Sidi Masud's son turned up on board the vessel, "With the Sciddee's compliments and professions of friendship," and at last informed the English that the long-desired interview would come off at Dessy Garden near Ombra. The English reiterated their demand for hostages with which Sidi Sabaun agreed to comply.

Six o'clock on the morrow was the hour fixed for the interview;[4] and due precautions were taken to guard against the commission of any act of treachery.[5] Preparations were made on as large a scale as the Company's resources could afford in order to meet the Sidi with becoming dignity: "Fifty Europeans and as many Sepoys" were to form the escort of the English emissaries.[6] At four on the following morning Mullah Ibrahim was despatched to the Sidi to ask him to send the agreed hostages on board their vessel before the English

[1] From Savage and Sulivan to Boucard, Ship *Hector*, Surat Bar, 20th February, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 177.

[2] Ship *Hector*, Surat Bar, 17th February, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 175.

[3] Ship *Hector*, Surat Bar, 21st February, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 178.

[4] Ship *Hector*, Surat Bar, 23rd February, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 179.

[5] *Ibid.*

[6] From Savage and Sulivan to Sterling, 23rd February, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 179.

left her to set out for their interview.[1] But dire disappointment was in store for the English. "At eight a. m.," says the Surat Factory Diary, "Mulna Ibrahim returned from Ombra, where he had been with Scidee Sabaun who told him, Sciddee Mossoot could not meet us this morning, the proper Hostages that he wanted not being ready; and an accident happened that the Dutch Doctor had been dangerously wounded by one of the Sciddees Soldiers and it was expected could not live, if he died the Sciddee was obliged to stay in Town to make some compliments to the Dutch upon the Occasion." [2]

At last the longed-for interview took place. At eight in the morning of the 25th of February,[3] the English were informed through Sidi Sabaun and Sidi's son that Sidi Masud was ready for the interview. The English sent a boat ashore to fetch the hostages for the Sidi's fair behaviour. Thereupon, Sidi Sabaun again repaired to the shore to superintend the preparations for receiving the English Envoys. The interview was to come off at Dessy Garden where Sidi Masud had pitched his tent, and which Monsieur Boucard in one of his letters had described as "A very agreeable place to meet the Sidi in". [4] Half an hour after Sidi Sabaun's departure from the English vessel, Messrs. Savage and Sulivan set out for the shore, and landing near Ombra point, were conveyed in "Pallankeens" (Palkhis or Munchils), escorted to the Sidi's tent by a number of horsemen of the Sidi's as well as by their own muster of fifty Europeans and fifty sepoys. On their way they passed between hedges lined "With Sepoys country people & Musick". This makes it plain that Sidi Masud seems to have left nothing undone to receive the English delegates with due pomp and ceremony expected from a petty potentate. On their arrival at the Garden, the English found the number of Sidi's soldiers to be "Upwards of 2000".

The Sidi condescended to receive them at the door of his

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[1] From Savage and Sulivan to Sterling, 23rd February, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 179.

[2] Ship *Hector*, Surat Bar, 23rd February, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 179.

[3] *Appendix*, No. 180. The Surat Factory Diary gives a wrong date of the interview, *viz.* the 24th of February, 1752. However, in a letter to the Court of Directors, from Savage and Sulivan, it is confirmed from the following sentence that the correct date is the 25th. "On the 25th in the morning (we) met him, where by Five, on the same day the annexed Treaty was agreed to."

[4] From Boucard to Savage and Sulivan, Ship *Hector*, Surat Bar, 23rd February, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 179.

tent. After the usual compliments had passed between the two parties, they withdrew to a smaller tent where the English were "Treated with Coffee". Over his coffee the Sidi seems to have opened the conversation with a long list of his grievances against the English. But the English Envoys cut him short by saying that if they in their turn set about enumerating their own grievances they could run up a longer list than his and that a great economy of time might be effected if the Sidi at once turned to the business in hand. The Sidi consented and the English began by demanding that he should give up the Castle either to themselves or to Mai-ud-din. But the Sidi refused categorically to yield to the demand, in spite of all the arguments the English made use of to persuade him to do it.

At last the English themselves perceived the expediency of desisting from their demand on being told by the Sidi's own people that the exertion of too much pressure on the Sidi in this matter might have the effect of inciting him to murder Mai-ud-din. Thereupon, they whittled down their demand to a request that the Sidi should grant certain posts to Mai-ud-din's sons. This request the Sidi at last promised to comply with.

At this stage of the proceedings in the course of the interview the Sidi retired for a time to rest as he was "Weakly and out of order". During the interlude the English seem to have indulged in a little backstair politics. "We took this opportunity of employing Jaggernaut and Mulna amongst his chief Counsellours to endeavour to find out what articles were best to press upon him and particularly in regard to Suffdir Caun." In one respect these secret investigations led to a most unexpected but welcome solution; for the Sidi's counsellors advised Jaggernath and Mullah that it would best serve the interest of their masters to leave off every attempt at political interference, and solely to press the Sidi for the payment of the expenses they had incurred by providing him with military assistance.

The English determined to interfere no further in the affairs of either Mai-ud-din or of Safdar Khan, and concentrated their efforts on being reimbursed for all the expenses they had made. This resolve they imparted to Jaggernath when he was once more sent to interview the Sidi. "We then told Jaggernaut he might talk as from himself to the Sciddee in private, that as we could not carry the point for Atchund, he might dispose of the Government to whom he pleased and the Affair of Suffdir Caun we must leave to him. For our charges two lacks of rupees must be demanded, and to sound him upon

other points, which when we (he) had done, to acquaint us of, and afterwards bringing him to us." Jaggernath acted according to his instructions, and the English were glad to learn that as soon as they had given Sidi Masud a free hand in disposing of the Castle and in settling affairs with Safdar Khan, they found the Sidi more willing to pay off the war debt that stood charged against him. Thus the way was paved for a peaceful understanding, and the next interview proved to be businesslike and productive of material results. The following is the account of the English delegates of the next interview which they had with the Sidi: "Presently after this the Scidee came, when we talked a little and agreed upon the following Points which after his going to Town and talking with different partys, were to be put in writing signed and sealed as usual in such cases."[1]

The articles of the treaty having been agreed upon, the task of drawing it up was proceeded with. A Persian Munshee was necessary for the purpose, and one in the Company's employ was sent for. The English were advised to return to their ship and to come again the first day of the New Moon, which was esteemed a lucky time for the undertaking. But so anxious were they to see all the formalities of the execution of the treaty completed, that they declared that they would not leave the place till the treaty was duly drawn up and signed. However, the Sidi, who believed in lucky days, could not be prevailed upon to proceed with and finish the task there and then. He fixed on the New Moon as the most auspicious day for signing and sealing the treaty.[2]

The new treaty began by repudiating the former treaty of 1751. Next it declared that two hundred thousand rupees were to be paid to the English as compensation for expenses incurred during the Surat troubles, as also for losses in the "Latty". Sidi Masud promised the English to grant posts of honour to Mai-ud-din's sons. Besides this, restitution was to be made of all the coaches, oxen, horses, garden and house etc. taken from the English, who were also left in the full enjoyment of their "phirmand-privileges". Of course, the release of the Chief and the Factors at the Surat Factory constituted one of the most important items of the treaty together with the provi-

[1] *Triumph* prahn, Surat River, 25th February, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 180.

[2] *Triumph* prahn, Surat River, 28th February, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 181.

sion by which the Sidi was bound to secure the factory itself for the English. The English in their turn agreed not to interfere in the dispute about the Castle by assenting to article 10 which briefly declares: "The Castle to Sciddee Mussoot & City to Suffdir Caun." This second treaty is mentioned in the compilation of Aitchison's *Treaties*: "A new Treaty was made under which the English were to receive compensation for losses, and to trade according to their firman."[1]

So far no serious difficulty had presented itself in the drawing up of the treaty; but the English were well aware of the fact that the signing of the treaty did not mean its actual execution, though Monsieur Boucard's prediction had come true, for he had told the English that if they adopted a friendly attitude it would be easy for them to get from the Sidi whatever they might reasonably demand.[2] However, even if he were animated with the best of intentions,[3] Sidi Masud could not help being slow in the fulfilment of the articles of the treaty owing to the peculiar circumstances of the time. On Tuesday the 10th March, 1752, he restored three coaches and two pair of oxen taken from the English during the time of trouble.[4] But it was easier to restore coaches and oxen than to satisfy the demand of the English for two lakhs of rupees. This was a very serious problem indeed.

The first intimation of the difficulty the Sidi had to contend with was received by the English hardly a week after the treaty had been signed, when Sidi Sabaun requested them to write a formal letter to Sidi Masud "about the articles of the charges" in order that the merchants, who were to advance the money, might be convinced that the Sidi really required the amount in order to indemnify the English and not for himself.[5] At the same time the Sidi's difficulties were further increased, because the amount that he was bound to pay was enhanced by two drafts on him for 2,400 and 25,000 rupees, respectively, signed by Yakut Khan at Janjira in favour of the English for the gunpowder

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[1] Aitchison, *Treaties, Engagements and Sanads*, VII, pp. 389-91.

[2] From Boucard to Savage and Sulivan, Ship *Hector*, Surat Bar, 17th February, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 174; 18th February, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 176.

[3] *Triumph* prahn, Surat River, 6th March, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 185.

[4] *Triumph* prahn, Surat River, 10th March, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 189.

[5] *Triumph* prahn, Surat River, 28th February, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 181.

they had supplied him with.[1] From another distinct quarter came also a demand for money. The Marathas wrote to Sidi Masud to make good his former promise to pay them two and a quarter lakhs of rupees. The Sidi read the letter of the Marathas in public—an act which the English viewed as a clever stratagem on his part to prepare his people for a tax he was about to levy on them.[2]

On Wednesday the 4th of March, 1752, Sidi Masud called a conference of the merchants of the city, and asked them for a loan of five lakhs, two for himself, one for Safdar Khan and two for the English.[3] On the merchants declaring their inability to pay him the amount, he lowered his demand to the two lakhs necessary to satisfy the English. The merchants asked for three days to consider his proposal. Evidently Sidi Masud had the greatest doubts about the merchants consenting to give him even two lakhs of rupees, for on Friday the 6th of March, 1752, he sent Sidi Sabaun to the English with the request that the amount pledged in the treaty might be reduced to a lower figure. Though Sidi Sabaun pleaded the poverty of the people in support of this request, the English did not comply with it; they replied that the amount agreed upon was much less than the damage sustained.[4] At 4 p.m. on the same day Sidi Sabaun came a second time and informed the English that another conference with the merchants had entirely failed because the merchants were firmly convinced that the Sidi was asking money not to pay off his debt to the English but to fill his own treasury. It was therefore arranged that the merchants should interview the English to satisfy themselves of the truth of Sidi Masud's assertion.

At the same time Sidi Sabaun instructed the English what they were to tell the merchants : "they (the Sidis) would appoint some of the heads of them (the merchants) to come and talk with us (the English) about it, when the Secretary (Sidi Sabaun) desired we would tell them that the sum we demanded was much less than we have expended, but for the sake of the Scidee and people in Town we had condescended to accept this sum, and which we would have before the Trade should open."[5] The Eng-

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[1] From Richard Bourchier, Surat, 31st July, 1752, *Appendix*, No. 206; Bombay Castle Diary, 22nd September, 1752, *Appendix*, No. 207.

[2] Surat Factory Diary, 16th May, 1752, *Appendix*, No. 199.

[3] *Triumph* prahn, Surat River, 4th March, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 185.

[4] *Triumph* prahn, Surat River, 6th March, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 185.

[5] *Ibid.*

lish did so, but their assertions were of little avail and the interview came to nothing. They learned afterwards that the merchants had come to the interview for quite a different purpose.[1]

It came about that by the 10th of March, 1752, the article of the treaty relating to the payment of two lakhs was still little more than a scrap of paper. Meanwhile, the patience of the English was well nigh exhausted. The delay was all the more galling, because it entailed other losses. In the words of the English authorities: "if matters are not made up very speedily all advantages of Trade will be entirely lost for this season."[2] Therefore, the English grudgingly consented to a reduction of Rs. 10,000. As regards the remaining debt of Rs. 190,000, they were willing to "take part of it in notes from all the merchants to be paid in a few months".[3]

These concessions failed to produce the desired and expected result. Sidi Masud failed to pay. He obtained from the merchants of Surat one lakh of rupees professedly to pay it to the Company;[4] but of this lakh only the comparative small sum of Rs. 6,967 was handed over to the English as partial payment of the full amount due to them.[5] In the next place Sidi Masud bethought himself of the expediency of levying a general tax on the people; in fact, only the fear of the unpopularity of such a tax had led him to refrain from imposing it long ago; and a subsequent incident proved that his fear was not without foundation.[6] So before committing himself to any such measure he deemed it prudent to ask the advice of the chief merchants. In order to be able to do so he sent word to the English to send to him Jaggernath, the Company's Marfuttiah or broker, without whose presence the meeting of the merchants could not take place as he was the head of the Bania caste. The English were at first loath to send him; but the Sidi gave them no peace till they at last yielded to his demand, though they did so very reluctantly.[7] This was on the 20th of May, 1752.

On Tuesday the 7th of July of the same year, the English had still cause to complain of the tardiness of the Sidi in his pay-

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[1] *Triumph* prahn, Surat River, March, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 188.
[2] Surat Factory Diary, March, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 190.
[3] *Triumph* prahn, Surat River, 10th March, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 189.
[4] Surat Factory Diary, 23rd March, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 194.
[5] *Ibid.*, 14th April, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 196.
[6] *Ibid.*, 15th July, 1752, *Appendix*, No. 205.
[7] Consultation, Surat, 19th May, 1752, *Appendix*, No. 201.

ments.[1] He even put off paying the bill drawn on him by the Sidi at Janjira.[2] However, at the meeting of the merchants, presided over by Jaggernath, it was decided to levy an assessment of Rs. 100,000 on the substantial inhabitants.[3] But this decision involved a difficult point. The Company objected to the tax being levied on the merchants under their protection on the ground that such a measure would imply a violation of the privileges granted them by their firman.[4] On the other hand, Sidi Masud declared that he could not see his way to collect the necessary amount if these merchants were exempted, as they were the "most substantial inhabitants".[5] But the English did not want to give up their right, and the Sidi had to drop the design, as they termed it, of "violating" their "privileges".[6]

The English had to face a fresh difficulty. At the meeting held by their merchants it was insisted on that Jaggernath and three others should stand "securities for payment of that part of the sum to be collected from the Banians".[7] Now as Jaggernath was the Marfuttiah of the Company, his standing security would naturally be wrongly interpreted by the people. The people would thereby come to the conclusion that the Company countenanced the levy of the tax; and thus the English would incur the odium of the whole population. Thereupon, the English decided to recall Jaggernath, who had himself at the meeting refused to comply with the Sidi's request to stand security, and who consequently had been forcibly detained in order that he might be induced to change his mind. As soon as the Sidi heard the news that messengers had been sent to ask for the release of Jaggernath, the Sidi allowed him to depart, "on one of the Govt.'s own Dependents pretending to become security for the Banians".[8]

More than six months elapsed after the first narrated incident, and the English had not yet received the payment which they were so anxiously expecting. Under date, the 25th of July, 1753,

[1] From Bombay to Surat, Surat Factory Diary, 7th July, 1752, *Appendix*, No. 204.

[2] Surat letters dated 4th and 16th October, 1752, *Appendix*, No. 208.

[3] Surat Factory Diary, letters dated 4th and 29th November, 1752, *Appendix*, Nos. 210 and 213.

[4] *Ibid.*, 29th November, 1752, *Appendix*, No. 213.

[5] *Ibid.*, 25th November, 1752, *Appendix*, No. 212.

[6] *Ibid.*, 29th November, 1752, *Appendix*, No. 215.

[7] *Ibid.*, 29th November, 1752, *Appendix*, No. 213.

[8] *Ibid.*, 29th November, 1752, *Appendix*, No. 215.

there is the following entry in the Surat Diary : "We visited the Scidee—To our repeated remonstrances at this time for him to pay off the amount of the Warcharges and Gingerah Draught he answered he would discharge the former as soon as possible and the latter when the ships arrived from the Red Sea."[1] But whether the Sidi ever discharged the full amount of the indemnity or the "Gingerah Draught" is nowhere made clear by the documents at our disposal.

After having gone through the weary task of giving a full account of the troubles at Surat, it is surely a great disappointment that the documents do not tell us how the money question was finally settled. This disappointment which the reader may keenly feel, is fully shared by the writer. But faithful to his task as an historical recorder, he prefers openly to confess his failure in elucidating this point, rather than affirm that the English obtained the money they asked for and that the Sidis paid off their debt. This may have been the case ; but the documents do not give us any information about it.

Before concluding this chapter we may by way of useful information add some particulars about the political imbroglio prevalent at Surat. As we have seen, the English had determined on the conclusion of the treaty to observe strict political neutrality. But amidst the contentions of the various petty states for supremacy, they soon found out that it was difficult for them to do so. Already, on the afternoon of Sunday the 22nd of March, 1752, Sidi Masud secretly proposed to the English to enter into an alliance with him, the Portuguese and "Sabalad Jaing", in order with their combined forces to destroy the Marathas. With this intention, that the English might more readily fall in with this proposal, Sidi Masud hinted to them that the Marathas were about to attack Bombay. But the English at Surat had by this time learned to know and understand Sidi Masud ; and so they declined his offer, declaring their inability to act without the permission of the Bombay Governor (Sir Charles Crommelin) and his Council.[2]

The position of the different parties during that period is clearly set forth in the account sent by the English Factors at Surat to the Governor and Council at Bombay. "It is necessary that we give you our opinion of the prevailing Powers in this City, and measures proper to be continued for preserving

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[1] Surat, 28th July, 1752, *Appendix*, No. 120.
[2] Surat Factory Diary, 22nd March, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 191.

the public tranquility. Scidee Mossoot is undoubtedly Master of the whole; and although Sufdir Caun is honoured with the name of Governour, yet he is still excluded Durbar; and Ali Nuas Caun a creature of Mossoot's sits there; whence we may conclude that Sufdir Caun will not be long in the City; and indeed we have our reasons for being of this opinion; therefore it will be highly your interest to cement with Scidee Mossoot and place no confidence in Sufdir Caun; at the same time you treat him with all outward respect and civility. The persons that seem most in the Scidee's confidence (though in reality he acts alone) are Ali Nouas Caun, and Sciddee Hillol. The first of these we know very little of, he is a nephew of Atchund's (Mai-ud-din) and respected by the soldiers, but the three last are the men who have greatly interested themselves to bring about a peace, and with them only we have transacted the government affairs."[1]

In November, 1752, both Sidi Masud and Mai-ud-din requested the President at Bombay that Mai-ud-din might be permitted to reside at Bombay; and as the President did not apprehend any danger in granting this request, he gave the necessary orders to the Provincial Chief and the Factors at Surat.[2] But these orders were not carried out for a long time; for when, in the beginning of February, 1753, Sidi Masud visited the Chief at Surat, he once more pleaded on behalf of Mai-ud-din. The Chief of Surat had by this time received instructions from the President at Bombay to grant the request. Accordingly, Captain Tarnes was directed "to receive and accommodate him in a suitable manner".[3]

Mai-ud-din having departed for Bombay, Sidi Masud took formal possession of the Surat Castle, on the plea that he had been appointed its Governor by the Court at Delhi and "that a Commission will shortly be sent" to that effect. "On this occasion he was saluted by the Castle, and desiring us likewise to compliment in it, we accordingly saluted him with seven guns from our Bunder."[4] But a Surat letter, dated Monday the 21st of May, 1753, reveals that no such appointment had been conferred on Sidi Masud by the Court of Delhi.[5]

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[1] Surat Factory Diary, 23rd March, 1751-2, *Appendix*, No. 192.
[2] Bombay Castle letter, 7th November, 1752, *Appendix*, No. 211.
[3] From the Provincial Chief and the Factors at Surat to the President and Council at Bombay, 7th February, 1753, *Appendix*, No. 216.
[4] Surat Factory Diary, 9th February, 1753, *Appendix*, No. 217.
[5] *Ibid.*, 21st May, 1753, *Appendix*, No. 218.

A more serious trouble arose at the end of July, 1753. Sidi Masud again visited the Chief on Saturday the 28th of July, 1753. On that occasion he complained that Safdar Khan was making great warlike preparations and was apparently acting in conjunction with the Marathas. So Sidi Masud approached the English and asked them to bring about a reconciliation between him and Safdar Khan. As the Chief showed his readiness to help him, the Sidi proposed to have recourse to the good offices of Farus Khan who was "greatly in the confidence of Suffdir Khan"; and the English agreed to follow his advice.

This promise to the Sidi was faithfully kept on Thursday the 9th of August, 1753, when Farus Khan visited the Chief at the Surat Factory. After a long discussion that ensued between Farus Khan and the Chief, the former agreed to leave the settlement of the whole affair in the hands of the English.[1]

On the next day, that is on the 10th of August, 1753, Sidi Masud Khan paid a visit to the Chief at the latter's invitation. In the conversation that followed the Sidi could not be brought round to agree to the four articles, for which the reader is requested to turn to the appendix.[2] He preferred to propose to the Chief to inform the town merchants about these terms, to which the Chief agreed.[3]

By the 25th of August, 1753, news reached Bombay that the inhabitants of Surat "were under great apprehensions from the Jealousy which subsists between the Sciddee and Suffdir Khan". If any open rupture should take place between these two parties, the Chief of Surat was, according to the instructions of the Bombay Government, to abstain from taking sides with either party.[4] But fortunately no breach of the peace occurred and the parties were apparently reconciled; for a letter to Bombay from the Surat Chief informs the Governor that the English and the Surat merchants had decided to act as mediators and to settle the differences between the Sidi and the Nawab Safdar Khan.[5]

Peaceful relations continued to prevail in Surat for about

[1] Surat Factory Diary, 9th August, 1753, *Appendix*, No. 226.
[2] *Appendix*, No. 226.
[3] Surat Factory Diary, 9th August, 1753, *Appendix*, No. 225.
[4] Letter from Bombay, Surat Factory Diary, 25th August, 1753, *Appendix*, No. 223.
[5] Letter to Bombay, Surat Factory Diary, 27th August, 1753, *Appendix*, No. 222.

a couple of months; but at last Sidi Masud's patience was exhausted and he was only prevailed upon to refrain from acts of open hostility by an appeal made to him that he should wait till the arrival of the Moghul King's orders. To this he consented provided that Safdar Khan made a similar promise to the same effect. [1]

On the 15th of October, 1753, news reached Bombay that the Sidi and the Nawab Safdar Khan had entered into a treaty by which they bound themselves for a period of three months to commit no hostilities on either side. They also promised that if in the interval any orders should arrive from the Moghul King concerning their present disputes both parties would consider his decision as final. The English Chief at the Surat Factory was requested to be a witness to the treaty; but as he could not act without the permission of the Bombay Governor and his Council, he had to wait for the orders from Bombay. The Board, however, gave their consent, as they foresaw no ill-consequences arising therefrom. [2]

The three months passed away; but the records do not give us any information whether the long-expected decision of the Moghul King ever reached the contending parties. All that we know from the documents is that towards the end of April, 1754, Nawab Safdar Khan suddenly lost his power. It happened thus. The slaves of Sidi Masud formed themselves into a confederacy and compelled Safdar Khan to dismiss "his second", Farus Khan, from his post. After having succeeded in this project, they assigned this post to one chosen from among themselves. This sudden accession of power naturally led them to behave in the most provoking manner towards the English, "by taking up several people under our (the English) Protection". Both Sidi Masud and the Nawab Safdar Khan openly declared that they had nothing to do with the insolent behaviour of the slaves. The Nawab's declaration is fully trustworthy; for the slaves were directly acting against his interests. But Sidi Masud's protestations of non-connivance with the slaves can hardly be believed in; it was in his interest that the slaves should rebel against his rival Safdar Khan. It must not be forgotten that Sidi Masud had these slaves at his command; yet instead of remonstrating with them for their conduct, he seemed to encourage them. Under these circumstances what the Chief

[1] Surat Factory Diary, 6th October, 1753, *Appendix*, No. 224.
[2] From Surat to Bombay, 15th October, 1753, *Appendix*, No. 228.

at Surat feared most was that if this impudence displayed by the slaves was not immediately checked they would make bold to proceed to indulge in worse acts of lawlessness. There was also another danger that was looming on the horizon. In the words of the Surat Factory Diary : "The old Scidee of late having been very infirm, should he not recover, his Death we judge will occasion great Revolutions in this Govt."[1]

The ominous prediction contained in the Surat Diary was only partly fulfilled. As a matter of fact a little less than two years afterwards, in January, 1756, Sidi Masud died. But as far as the documents go there is not the least evidence to prove that a great Revolution took place after his demise. Whatever trouble may have arisen upon Sidi Masud's death, the relations between the English of Bombay and the Sidis of Janjira were not affected thereby. For the English continued to be on more than friendly terms with the Sidis of Janjira and fought on their side against the Marathas. But the details of the British expedition to Janjira will be fully narrated in the following chapter.

[1] Surat Factory Diary, 22nd April, 1754; *Appendix*, No. 229.

CHAPTER VIII

THE JANJIRA EXPEDITION

(1756-1772)

By the treaty of 1752 the English were to receive compensation for losses, and to trade according to their firman. As has already been said the documents do not tell us to what extent the terms of the agreement set down in this treaty were carried out. But from the documents one circumstance is obvious, the English and the Sidis continued to be on friendly terms with each other. Had the friendly relations between them ceased, the Janjira expedition, with which we will presently deal, would never have taken place.

The troubles at Surat were hardly over, when in the beginning of the year 1756, just ten years after the death of Tegbakt Khan, there took place the demise of Sidi Masud, one of the most important personages in our history. The English received this news on the 21st of January, 1756, and immediately a strong force was sent on board the *Edgecoote* to Surat, in order to check or quell any disturbances that may arise on the occasion.[1] By that date (February, 1756) the Sidi, the Portuguese and the Angria had one after another ceased to be troublesome and dangerous to the English. The Marathas alone now remained dangerous competitors, and they were destined in the near future to meet the English in open battle.[2]

It would seem that in the beginning of the same year the Dutch were trying to settle in the Sidi's territories at Rajpuri. This we learn from Sidi Yakut Khan's letter to the President in answer to enquiries made by the Bombay Government on the same subject. The Sidi wrote that he was under the impression that the English were on good terms with the Dutch. It was only on receipt of the President's letter that he learned the true state of affairs. He regretted that this information had reached him too late; for the Dutch ships arrived earlier than the letter. However, the Sidi pointed out to the English that in spite of the tempting offers made by the Dutch, namely

[1] From the Chief and Factors at Surat to the President at Bombay, Bombay Castle Diary, 27th January, 1756, *Appendix*, No. 238.

[2] Edwardes, *Rise of Bombay*, p. 177.

of Rs. 40,000 per annum and a ready assistance on all occasions, he (the Sidi) had refused them a plot of ground to erect a warehouse in his country. He justified his refusal to the Dutch by the words : "Ginjerah belongs to the King and we dare not do anything without his Orders."

Sidi Yakut Khan also informed the President that he had granted the Dutch permission to send their ships for the purposes of trading in his country. The Dutch had been greatly pleased at this, and forthwith some of the "Balagut Merchants" purchased goods from the Sidis. The latter had given delivery of these goods, and the Sidi hoped that the English would not find fault with his way of acting, in which he was solely guided by his interest in his own country's welfare. He added that the English had nothing to fear. There was one great consolation for them. The Sidi had made it plain beyond all doubt that under no circumstances would the Dutch be allowed to settle in Janjira "as Gingerah expects God's and the Company's Help to defend her against all enemies".[1] The English felt little inclined to rely on the Sidi's assurance; and in 1757 the Court of Directors made a remark to this effect : "We shall depend likewise," they wrote, "upon your using all prudent measures to prevent the Dutch settling in the Sidi's country at Rajpuri."[2]

Meanwhile, a letter from Surat to Bombay, dated the 12th of November, 1757, brought news of a fresh disturbance with the Sidis. It was a prevailing practice in that place for boats dispatched from any part to carry notes of permission to pass the Surat Castle. Formerly, those boats that were under English protection had not to pay more than ten annas each ; but since the year 1752 the Sidi had increased the tax. He demanded a rupee and a half, and this sum had been constantly paid by the English since then. But he was not satisfied with raising the amount of passage money. On the 9th of November, 1757, he also refused to deliver the customary passes on the usual terms. Upon this, the Chief of Surat sent a message requesting him to observe the practice of the late Sidi Masud Khan. His answer was "that his Father acted conformably to his own pleasure & that he too was resolved to do the same".[3]

The documents do not tell us how this untoward event was

[1] From Sidi Yakut Khan to the President at Bombay without date, Bombay Castle Diary, 23rd March, 1756, *Appendix*, No. 239.

[2] Edwardes, *Rise of Bombay*, p. 172.

[3] From Surat to Bombay, 12th November, 1757, *Appendix*, No. 243.

finally settled. However, letters dated the 7th and 14th of August, 1759 are of considerable significance. For from these letters we learn that the English had taken some vessels from the Sidi of Surat.[1] From this we may perhaps conclude that the English brought the Sidi of Surat to a more sober frame of mind by the confiscation of his ships.

From the documents extant we next learn that on the 24th of February, 1760 the Sidi of Janjira arrived in Bombay Harbour to pay a visit to the departing Governor of Bombay. Of course, this was not the chief reason why he came to Bombay, as we shall have occasion to point out later on. But in coming to Bombay he had run the risk of being captured by the Maratha fleet, and the English thought that it would be a disgrace to their nation if they did not take steps for his safe return home. It was decided that several cruisers should escort the Sidi on his way home. For if he were to fall into the hands of the Marathas, Danda Rajpuri would naturally become a Maratha fief.

Before leaving Bombay the Sidi made a clean heart of the motive of his visit. He told the President that he was in utmost distress; for he had no money and ammunition to ward off the ceaseless attacks of the relentless Marathas. This was a piece of very unpleasant news; for the English could not do this publicly lest they might offend Nana Farnavis (1741-1800) who was already in those days one of the prominent Maratha leaders. Nor could they refuse to help the Sidi; for if the Maratha took possession of Danda Rajpuri, they would become very formidable neighbours. The English were of opinion that they were justified in rendering him assistance, because by doing so they would be acting strictly in conformity to the second article of the Defensive and Offensive alliance entered into with the Sidis on the 6th of December, 1733. They were also mindful of the following facts. If the Marathas became masters of Janjira they would be more troublesome to the English in their demands about the tankha at Surat than the Sidis. In case the English did not assist the Sidis, their desperate state of affairs might induce them to ask the help of the Dutch; and as the President remarks, (thus they would) "at once render all the abortive Pains we have taken to prevent their (the Dutch) getting any Footing there". Therefore, taking all this into consideration, the English resolved to assist the Sidi with money

[1] Bombay Castle Diary, 7th and 14th August, 1759, *Appendix*, Nos. 241 and 242.

and ammunition as secretly as it could be done. They were ready to take in return as security any jewels he had, or anything else which it was in his power to give.[1]

On the occasion of this visit another matter of minor importance was satisfactorily settled. It seems that the English had imprisoned some of the Sidi's people, and the Sidi now profited by this occasion to ask the English to set them free. The English were courteous enough to comply with his request.[2] But when and why the English seized these people, the records do not say.

It would be rash to accuse the English of being rather cruel in their way of acting towards the Sidis who had been arrested; for the Sidis had a peculiar talent to cause trouble wherever they were. For example, when Sidi Abdullah was at Fort Victoria, where he stayed under British protection, he so misbehaved himself as to give great offence to the Marathas. The result was that there was considerable alarm at the Fort lest the Marathas should take up arms. Mr. Wrench, the English Resident at that place, thought Sidi Abdullah too dangerous a person to allow him to stay any longer under the Company's protection; for he had already several times reprimanded the Sidi for his like misbehaviour but without any effect. It was decided to send him away from the place as soon as possible, and even to imprison him in the upper Fort in case he should refuse to act in accordance with the order within a reasonable time. For the English thought it better that one person should be imprisoned rather than many should be disturbed.[3]

The Sidi, who had come down to Bombay to ask the help of the English in February, 1760, made another appeal for assistance in September of the same year. This time the Fort of Consaw[4] was in imminent danger. It was his earnest desire that the English should send a party of men with sundry stores and hoist the English colours on the Fort. The English were not at all anxious either to send men or hoist the English colours on the Fort; for this might involve them in open warfare with the Marathas. As regards the Sidi's request for batty, they were of opinion, from what had occurred during the

[1] Bombay Castle Diary, 26th February, 1760, *Appendix*, No. 244.
[2] *Ibid.*, 14th April, 1760, *Appendix*, No. 245.
[3] From the Resident at Fort Victoria to the President at Bombay, Bombay Castle Diary, 20th May, 1760, *Appendix*, No. 246.
[4] Kansa, a fort at the mouth of the Rajpuri creek.

last season when he was in Bombay, that the Sidi could not be in need of it at that juncture. It was agreed to accede to his request for stores and to provide him privately with gunpowder and small balls, of which he was in truth urgently in need for the protection of that place. In the same letter the Sidi had also expressed his desire to come down once more to Bombay. This was positively refused, "as it will give umbrage to the Marathas," says the President, "and be of prejudice to his own affair at Gingerah".[1]

As time went on, the position of the Sidis became more critical than ever. The Portuguese were continually sending help to the Marathas against them. In the beginning of the year 1761, the Sidi offered to deliver up the Fort of Consaw to the care of the Honourable Company. If they did not accept this offer, the Sidi declared that he would have to turn to the Dutch or any other European power for support. Now in the year 1760, the Honourable Mr. Charles Crommelin had promised the Sidi's Vakil, Govind Shivram Punt, that "He would not allow it to fall into improper hands". The President appointed a committee, consisting of Mr. Byfeld, Major Gouin and Mr. Hornby to proceed to Janjira on board the *Neptune*, in order to determine on the spot what measures should be taken in this fresh emergency. Several other gallivats, the *Guardian*, the *Fox* ketch, the *Tyren* snow,[2] the *Dolphin*, the *Shark*, the *Bonnetta* and others, all of them fully equipped, were ordered to follow the *Neptune*. The President's instructions to the Committee were to make it clear to Ramaji Punt, the leader of the Maratha fleet, that in sending this expedition the chief aim of the English was to act as mediators between the Sidis and the Peshwa, and to settle their differences in a friendly way. If the Committee did not succeed in achieving this end, and if Ramaji Punt was resolved not to withdraw his force, then the English should hoist their colours both at Janjira and Consaw, until an amicable settlement was arrived at.[3]

Although the Janjira Committee was appointed in January, 1761, the said expedition did not start till the morning of the 2nd of March, when the proposed Committee embarked on board the *Neptune* followed by the Sidi himself on the *Guardian* and

[1] Bombay Castle Diary, 30th September, 1760, *Appendix*, No. 247.

[2] A snow is a small vessel like a brig.

[3] From the Sidi at Janjira to the President at Bombay, Bombay Castle Diary, 24th January, 1761, *Appendix*, No. 248.

accompanied by other gallivats.[1] Before they sailed a letter arrived from Sidi Ibrahim Khan on the 24th of February, 1761,[2] in which the writer insisted on the urgent need of prompt assistance; and it was this letter that at last actuated the President to give sailing orders to the commander of the *Neptune*.[3]

In his instructions to the Janjira Committee the President among other things wrote: "we did not know the Portuguese were at war with the Sciddees as Principals, and therefore if they came there, during their stay, or were there on their arrival, they (the Committee) must acquaint them, the place was assigned over to us, and send them copy of the Assignment that they might not interfere." If the Committee deemed it advisable they could hoist the English flags at the Janjira Fort. If, in spite of this, Ramaji Punt raised a siege, then they were directed to leave such a military detachment there as they thought necessary. In return for all these troubles the English expected that the Sidis would sign a contract, by which they would not allow any other Europeans to settle in Janjira.[4]

On the 3rd of March, 1761, the President gave orders to the *Bombay* grab to set sail for Janjira to relieve the *Neptune* if possible,[5] the services of which had been reserved for Surat. From this we may readily conclude that there was the greatest need to send off the Committee to Janjira; otherwise the English would not have incurred such an additional expense; for they did evidently make use of the *Neptune* only for the time being;[6] and this was a very short time indeed.

Soon after the Committee's arrival at Janjira the Maratha fleet appeared to the southward, and anchored at a little distance off the harbour. The Committee at once set forth to fulfil the task entrusted to them. The Governor's letters were sent to Ramaji Punt, and by the tone of his answer the English expected that a conference would soon be held when the Committee hoped to carry out the Company's orders. Next, two trained men were stationed on each of the forts to hoist the English colours either on arrival of the Portuguese fleet or on Ramaji Punt's refusal to comply with the Company's request. Major Gouin also ob-

[1] Bombay Castle Diary, 2nd March, 1761, *Appendix*, No. 252.
[2] From Sidi Ibrahim Khan to the President, Bombay Castle Diary, *Appendix*, No. 249.
[3] 27th February, 1761, *Appendix*, No. 250.
[4] Instructions to the Janjira Committee, Bombay Castle Diary, 1st March, 1761, *Appendix*, No. 251.
[5] Bombay Castle Diary, 3rd March, 1761, *Appendix*, No. 253.
[6] *Ibid.*, 24th January, 1761, *Appendix*, No. 248.

tained an assignment, executed by Sidi Yakut Khan who was the only person of importance in Janjira, to the effect that he would not allow any Europeans, the English excepted, to settle in Janjira. On the 5th of March the British flags were flying on the Janjira and the Consaw Forts. From this it is clear that the expectations of the English failed to materialise. Ramaji Punt evaded holding a meeting on one pretext or another. He first expressed himself unwilling to come on board the *Guardian*, and said that he was prepared to meet the English on shore. When the English agreed to this, he found another excuse. He declined to withdraw his forces, unless both Sidi Ibrahim and Sidi Yakut Khan gave up the possession of the castles, and their forts were garrisoned by the English. This attitude was probably adopted by Ramaji Punt because it was not absolutely in his power to act otherwise on his own accord, without positive orders from the Peshwa at Poona. Under these circumstances the Committee did not know what to do. Without definite instructions from the President they did not venture to drive Ramaji's troops "from the several small Redoubts, which they had established round the Fort, one of which was garrisoned by Portugueze". After the English colours had been hoisted on the forts, the Committee proposed to the Sidi to march with British troops into the forts, but the Sidi was afraid of offending his own people, and the Committee had to drop this idea. But though the English could not prevail on Ramaji to withdraw his forces, they were more successful with the Portuguese, whose fleet sailed away from Janjira. Considering the situation of affairs the Committee thought it advisable to detain the *Neptune* till they heard from Ramaji Punt.[1]

This time the English showed a more determined front in their attitude towards the Marathas, the Portuguese and the Sidis. They could not allow Ramaji any further delay in coming to a settlement. For the President's instructions to the Committee concerning him stated that, if he did not retire within a fortnight, they would treat his refusal to withdraw as an insult to their colours flying at Janjira and Consaw, and would deal with him accordingly. To this effect the President decided to dispatch a letter to the Regency at Poona and to send an ultimatum to Ramaji through the English Agent "Mancojee".[2]

It has already been pointed out that one of the redoubts op-

[1] From the Janjira Committee to the President at Bombay, Bombay Castle Diary, 8th and 9th March, 1761, *Appendix*, No. 254.

[2] Mankoji.

posite the Janjira Fort was garrisoned by Portuguese soldiers in spite of the English colours flying there. In this instance, the Committee was directed to send a messenger to the Commanding Officer of the Portuguese, to demand of him an explanation as to his intentions. This messenger was also to inform the Portuguese officer in command that if he did not withdraw his forces, "they (the English) shall look upon him as an Enemy and treat him accordingly". The Sidi was also treated with the same firm hand : "and should the Sciddee continue to object to admitting a proper number of our Troops into his Forts, the Committee must declare to him, we will not let our Colours remain there, without having a proper number of our people to take care of them."[1]

By the end of March all these troubles were over, for on the evening of the very day on which the last letters were dispatched by the Janjira Committee to the President, the whole of the Maratha force retreated by land. After the departure of the Maratha forces the Committee wanted to return to Bombay. But the Sidi would not hear of this; he asked them to stay "until his Government was a little settled, and his subjects convinced, that Rajapore was once again become a safe Asylum for them". Nor was he unreasonable in this request; for the Maratha fleets were still hovering about the coast till the 26th of March, 1761.

There are no documents to show when the Committee returned from Janjira after performing its task; but its return to Bombay cannot have taken place before the 17th of August, 1761; for the Sidi writes to the President in his letter of the 14th of September : "I am now enjoying the Country in the same manner you (the President) have wrote to me but this Conference was already past between the peshwas & the English Gentlemen at their withdrawing the Siege and they had agreed to the same as you (the President) did now, leaving all disputes to be decided on the peshwas arrival to your pleasure, telling me that at present [meaning at the Time of withdrawing the Siege] we (the Sidis) shou'd carry on our Government without further molestation to the Morattas, & the same your Honr gave in writing to me the 18 Mohrum [or 17 August last]."

There are several other interesting points to which the Sidi refers in the continuation of the same letter. For instance, he mentions that the molestations and the continuous attacks of the

[1] Bombay Castle Diary, 10th March, 1761, *Appendix*, No. 255.

Marathas had not only ruined his country, but also reduced his people to such a state that they began to plunder among themselves. It was therefore his belief that it would take fifteen years to restore Janjira to its original state provided it was no more invaded. He complained bitterly that the Marathas had not only destroyed all the gardens and carried away sixteen guns from Conkree (Khokree), but had also for the last fifteen years taken all sorts of effects belonging to Janjira state. In the words of the Sidi : "They owe me my share of about 18 years produce of the Country."

One remarkable point we notice in the latter portion of the Sidi's letter is its tone of dissatisfaction with the way the English had treated him. To attempt to interpret its contents in our own words would be to lose the true spirit in which it was written. It will be worth while reproducing the last portion of the document as it is. "They have against their Fathers Words," remarks Sidi Yakut, "keep the Fort of Mutgur & there are several other demands but nevertheless you say I must be satisfied with what I have got & trust to God for more. I do trust Him and Night & Day pray Him for it, but I hope you will please to tell me as soon as possible how I shall be able to get it in future. It is months past that the Siege was withdrawn and agreeable to your Advice I was sit quiet ; & now you say in this manner what I can do then in remaining satisfied. You know what you have supply'd and how greatly I am indebted to the Merchants. How I shall be able to clear from said Debts & maintain the Garrison and other Expences........."[1]

The question now naturally presents itself whether the Sidi was justified in making these bitter complaints after what the English had actually done for him. Mr. Charles Crommelin was naturally disgusted at the Sidi's conduct, and he wrote to him, "that if by applying to any other power he can do better for himself, he is at free liberty to do so". Probably he meant nothing more than to frighten the Sidi and to bring him to his senses so that he might be induced to write in future in a more becoming manner. The President was determined that if the Sidi did not change his attitude towards the English, the English garrison should be withdrawn from Janjira and the necessary steps should be taken to force him to pay off his debt.[2]

In fact why did the English assist the Sidis? They did so

[1] From Sidi Ibrahim Khan at Janjira to the President at Bombay, 14th September, 1761, *Appendix*, No. 256.

[2] Bombay Castle Diary, 18th September, 1761, *Appendix*, No. 258.

because of the agreement entered into between the Honourable Charles Crommelin and Govind Shiwram Punt Tatiah of Poona on behalf of Madhavrao Balaji, the son of Balaji Baji Rao. By this treaty they had not only promised to remain on friendly terms with the Marathas but had also consented to act as mediators to adjust the disputes that had taken place between the Sidi of Janjira and the Government of Poona. The clauses of this treaty referring to the obligations contracted by the English towards the Sidis are :

"4th. That proper force shall be forthwith dispatched for restoring the whole Jurisdiction & Territories of Rajapore to the Sciddees of Gingerah in the same condition and manner as they remained before Invaded and attacked by Ramajee Punt; which Country is not to be molested in future by any of the Moratta Officers or Subjects.

"5th. That all prisoners taken by the Morattas, or Sciddies, subjects of either Governments & now in their possession shall be sent to Bombay, within One Month from the signing of these Articles & mutually restored by the Governour to their Freedom, & all Hostilities between the Morattas & Sciddies shall cease from this time."[1]

These articles make it plain that the English faithfully discharged the obligations they had freely contracted; and the President was quite justified in saying that he (the Sidi) should remain satisfied with enjoying peace in his country.

The President's stern letter was not without effect on the Sidi; for in the next letter which the Sidi wrote to Bombay his tone had entirely changed. He wrote that he was anxious to set matters right; and he proposed that either himself (Sidi Ibrahim) or Sidi Yakut Khan should come down to Bombay, "& then we ourselves the Colours, & the People &ca are yours & you may order as you think proper, we shall satisfy you in all respects in the manner you chuse, & then follow whatever advice you give, but let once justify our conduct for your satisfaction. We beg you will order a Vessel here as soon as you can that we may satisfy you."

Meanwhile, Captain Walsh had been sent to Janjira to bring back the powder and other stores from that place. But the Sidi had already taken possession of them though he expressed his readiness to pay the cost.[2]

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[1] Articles of Agreement, *Appendix*, No. 261.

[2] From Sidi Ibrahim of Janjira to the President at Bombay, 16th November, 1761, *Appendix*, No. 259.

Once the peace was restored in his territories, the Sidi, not satisfied with being again in possession of his own, sent his men about the Maratha countries where they plundered and murdered people in the most shameful manner. In spite of this, the Sidi in his letters to Bombay affected to be the injured party. His duplicity enraged the President who wrote : "If you are not satisfied with that Agreement" (the agreement between the English and Govind Shivram Punt Tatiah of Poona) "you ought to say so, but throughout all your Letters you never write plain which I understand."

One more fact is brought to light by the President's letter in answer to Sidi Ibrahim of Janjira. It appears that the Sidis had captured one of the Maratha gallivats and brought her in the Bombay Harbour where she lay for a long time without being claimed by any one. At last the English discovered the owner, who was a Maratha subject, to whom they restored the property. From this the English suspected that the Sidi had in this matter acted thus with a bad motive. He knew full well that the English were on friendly terms with the Marathas, and his way of acting can only be explained by his desire to create animosity between the two powers. But his plan was frustrated. On the contrary, the Marathas seized one of the Sidi's gallivats, and the President remarked : "the Morattas were certainly right in taking your Gallivat at Sea, as you was making War upon their Country as here."

Neither the President nor the Council approved of the Sidi's intended visit to Bombay. The President would at most consent to receive a trustworthy envoy from the Sidis. Nor did the President encourage an envoy's visit ; for it could serve no useful purpose, "as you have nothing to do but to receive back the country of Rajahpore, & live quietly with all your Neighbours". But if the English were not anxious to see either the Sidi or his envoy, they were most anxious not to part with the mortars and the shells which had been sent to Janjira for the use of the English garrison. They were ready to allow the Sidis to retain the stores especially sent for their use, but the amount of their cost would be credited to their account. The last two paragraphs of the President's letter plainly show that the English were greatly distressed because they found themselves hopelessly involved in the Sidi's affairs.

"We cannot Agree to let our Men and Colours," says the President, "remain with you any longer, as the World must think if we do that we countenance & approve of your violent

unjust proceedings against the Morattas, You have hurt our Credit too much already & tho' I gave you several times warning what wou'd be the Consequence so you must permit the People to come away with the Stores agreeable to the Orders we have sent the Officer & you will also assist them with Men & Boats that they may embark as soon as possible.

"You say a great deal assuring me that we may order as we please & you are ready to follow our Advice but I am sorry to say there are words only that you have never yet follow'd my Advice & I have had a great deal of trouble with and with your Affairs to no Purpose."[1]

When the negotiations had reached this state, towards the end of September, 1762, Sidi Ibrahim died. Sidi Yakut Khan succeeded him as Chief of Janjira, and to him the British sent the usual "Sirpaw" (congratulatory gift of accession), as was customary on such occasions.[2] Perhaps owing to this change of rulers it was brought about that the Sidi's debt was not discharged till the beginning of the year 1767. It was only after the President had repeatedly urged the claims of the Company that Sidi Yakut Khan agreed to pay five hundred morahs of batty as part payment of the debt at the rate of Rs. 18¼ per morah.[3]

But it looked as though the peaceful settlement at which the contending parties had arrived was not destined to be permanent; for in October, 1767, the Marathas were once more preparing to invade Janjira. The whole cause of the trouble was the difference that had arisen between Sidi Abdul Rahim Khan and Sidi Yakut Khan. The latter desired that the English should send two ships to his assistance and order Abdul Rahim Khan to come to Bombay. But the English did not think that there was any immediate danger, and as they were quite prepared, so that even if the necessity should suddenly arise ships could be sent to the Sidi's relief within a short time, they postponed taking any notice of the Sidi's request, "the more especially," observes the President, "as the Morattas having this object in view, their Attention may be directed from another quarters".[4]

A week later, on the 27th of October, Sidi Yakut Khan repeated once more the same demand. He called the attention of

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[1] From the President to Sidi Ibrahim of Janjira without date, *Appendix*, No. 260.

[2] Bombay Castle Diary, 5th October, 1762, *Appendix*, No. 262.

[3] *Ibid.*, 20th January, 1767, *Appendix*, No. 264.

[4] *Ibid.*, 20th October, 1767, *Appendix*, No. 265.

the English to the fact that by means of treasonable measures Abdul Rahim Khan was already in the possession of the Fort of Medgur. This time the English were more inclined to lend a willing ear to his pleadings. "IT IS OBSERVED," says the President, "OUR HONBLE MASTERS have directed us to support this MAN (Sidi Yakut) when necessary and approved our affording him succours in the year 1761." To help him in his distress they sent to his assistance the *Success* ketch and the *Fox* gallivat. At the same time they realised that unless they succeeded in placidating Abdul Rahim Khan he would turn out a dangerous foe. They thought that the best plan would be to settle first the dispute that had arisen between the two Sidis. Mr. Bruce Fletcher, the Residential Officer at Fort Victoria, was chosen for this delicate task.

The only way in which matters could be amicably settled was the following. Sidi Yakut Khan was to be prevailed upon either to grant Sidi Abdul Rahim Khan a liberal monthly allowance which would enable the latter to live in comfort and honourable independence or to assign over to him for the same purpose the revenue of certain villages or portions of land. This was the task Mr. Fletcher was entrusted with. If Mr. Fletcher was not successful in persuading the Sidi to do either the one or the other he was advised to act in the way he thought best.[1]

Mr. Fletcher departed for Janjira on board the *Success* ketch on the 5th of November, 1767, and reached his destination on the evening of the 7th. He entrusted the President's letters addressed to the two Sidis to Abdul Gunney who faithfully delivered them. Sidi Abdul Rahim on going through the contents of his letter promised to return an answer within two days. But he did not keep this promise; the appointed day came and passed without an answer being received. Instead of a proper answer, he sent, on the 10th of November, 1767, an envoy on board the *Success* ketch. This ambassador was not furnished with any other authority to treat; he was ordered to request the English to grant his muster consisting of about three thousand men in case of accommodation taking place. Mr. Fletcher knew that it was chiefly owing to the pugnacious attitude of his Officers that Sidi Abdul Rahim was prevented from coming to a wished-for settlement. This is apparent from what

[1] From Sidi Yakut Khan of Janjira, Bombay Castle Diary, 27th October, 1767, *Appendix*, No. 266.

Mr. Fletcher wrote to the President at Bombay. "The day before Sciddee Rahim had sent the Sciad (Syed) on Board, who had acquainted him that there appeared no prospect of an Accomodation because it had been a Rule with them to be guided by their Army, whose influence over him was so great, and they had gained such an Ascendency as to govern him in the most Despotic manner."[1] Mr. Fletcher sent a message on the morning of the 11th to know Abdul Rahim's final decision in order to make sure whether the Sidi was ready to listen to the friendly advice of the English or whether he preferred to be guided by his officers. But the Sidi turned a deaf ear to every request, and asked Mr. Fletcher to address himself directly to his Officers, who were determined to support him in his cause.

On entering the Janjira Harbour Mr. Fletcher perceived several Maratha gallivats off the Consaw Fort, and from reliable information he gathered that messages had been exchanged between Sidi Abdul Rahim Khan and Vishaji Punt of the Maratha fleet.[2] However, he tried his utmost, and left no stone unturned to effect a peaceful settlement between Sidi Yakut and Sidi Abdul Rahim. But as the days went by Sidi Abdul Rahim instead of showing himself peacefully inclined, publicly asked his Officers to support his cause; and the latter unanimously agreed to stand by his side. He opened hostilities by ordering all the inhabitants of Fort Medgur to evacuate the place, and to take with them all their goods and effects. Next he burnt all the grass on the surrounding hill so as to change the approaches of the fort into a barren wilderness. But this was a mere threat. Without money and ammunition he could do very little of consequence, unless he was joined by the Maratha gallivats which were daily increasing in number and kept constantly in sight of the Consaw Fort. But up to now they had not joined him, perhaps from fear of the English.

On the other hand, Sidi Yakut Khan was anxious to settle the dispute in the manner pointed out by the President. He also agreed to hand over to the English as much batty as possible in the payment of the remaining debt. His only distress was "that Delays (in settling the disputes) would be of Prejudice to his Affairs". In his opinion, unless the English threatened to make use of force, Sidi Abdul Rahim would grant his soldiers full liberty to plunder and ravage the country to their hearts'

[1] From Bruce Fletcher at Janjira, 14th November, 1767, Bombay Castle Diary, 19th November, 1767, *Appendix*, No. 270.

[2] Bombay Castle Diary, 12th November, 1767, *Appendix*, No. 267.

content. Once more Mr. Fletcher urged Abdul Rahim to accept the proposed terms, but was as unsuccessful as he had been in the former attempts. It was obvious that Abdul Rahim was but a tool in the hands of his Officers. Mr. Fletcher likewise agreed with Sidi Yakut Khan that nothing but force would bring Sidi Abdul Rahim to reason. But it was difficult to take active measures against him. For he had retired with precipitation to "Konhenny" (Konherry), a place beyond the reach of the cannon both of the English fleet and of Janjira Harbour. There was no choice left but to apply to Bombay for reinforcements. As Sidi Abdul Rahim's army consisted of three thousand men, Bombay was asked to supply the necessary troops and Mr. Fletcher made it a point to represent to the Bombay authorities that "the sooner that was, so much the better it would be for the Service".[1]

For a number of days the situation of affairs continued without any perceptible improvement. The English in Bombay had to take the following points into consideration. Firstly, they were determined that Sidi Abdul Rahim should under no circumstances get possession of the fort. Next, Sidi Yakut Khan must be assisted, for his defeat would mean the loss of the whole of the batty revenue which was his only means of support and the only resource left him to discharge the Company's debt. On the contrary, if help were not rendered to Sidi Yakut, Sidi Abdul Rahim would possess himself of the batty revenues. This would enable him to maintain a considerable army, with the result that the English would have to keep a force at Janjira during the whole season.

The President resolved to send to Janjira the *Eagle*, the *Tartar* snow and the *Swift* gallivat, with "a reinforcement of Infantry to compleat the Detachment already there to one hundred Europeans, also three hundred Sepoys (300), and two Field pieces". He had a double object in view in sending this reinforcement to Janjira. In the first place this would make it possible for Sidi Yakut to gather his crop of the batty. It would also enable Mr. Fletcher to act in conjunction with Sidi Yakut to take the necessary measures that would induce Sidi Abdul Rahim to give up his pretensions. However, the English were determined not to offend Sidi Abdul Rahim; and to arrange for an amicable settlement, if this could possibly be done. The

[1] From Bruce Fletcher on board the *Success* ketch, to the President, 13th November, 1767, Bombay Castle Diary, 15th November, 1767, *Appendix*, No. 268.

President made the following suggestions. He expressed the hope that "the first method (of obliging Abdul Rahim to give up his pretensions by making him accept the offered accommodation) we wish could be effected but if otherwise, we must, tho' reluctantly, have recourse to the last, (of compelling him to retire)". In the latter case the Marathas could have no reason to complain against the proceedings of the English, because by the treaty of 1761 they had stipulated never to interfere in an engagement between the English and the Sidis. Besides this, the English had not yet ascertained whether the Marathas acted as principals or allies to either party.[1]

In spite of Mr. Fletcher's constant endeavours Sidi Abdul Rahim did not show the least sign of submission. Mr. Fletcher went as far as to assure him that if he tendered his submission, the English would see to it that he was granted "a genteel maintenance" and permission "to live at the Presidency". This latter concession was not at all approved of by Sidi Yakut Khan who feared lest his rival's stay at the Presidency should be a constant source of trouble and disturbance. But Mr. Fletcher's proposals were of no avail; nothing could induce Sidi Abdul Rahim to yield. Force was the last resort the English had at their disposal, if they wished to regain the Medgur Fort.[2]

The arrival of the English forces at Janjira did not seem to affect Sidi Abdul Rahim in any way. Nor did he listen to Mr. Fletcher who told him "that peaceable measures were what we most desired". He remained as obstinate as ever. He even showed his readiness to defend himself against the English. However, Mr. Fletcher was of opinion that he had fully obeyed the Company's instructions to the best of his ability. He, therefore, determined finally to have recourse to force of arms. He decided to act in conjunction with Sidi Yakut's forces. He ordered Captain John Hopkins to land with his troops in the morning of the 22nd of November, 1767.[3]

But scarcely had the troops landed when they made haste to re-embark; for the reception they received was so warm as to make a retreat imperative, because the English were hopelessly outnumbered. As Captain Hopkins informed Mr. Fletcher, "the keeping on Shore with the Forces now under his command

[1] Bombay Castle Diary, 17th November, 1767, *Appendix*, No. 269.
[2] From Bruce Fletcher at Janjira, 14th November, 1767, Bombay Castle Diary, 19th November, 1767, *Appendix*, No. 270.
[3] Bombay Castle Diary, 21st November, 1767, *Appendix*, No. 271.

was impracticable". Moreover, the English foot soldiers were in want of ammunition; nor had the artillery men a sufficient supply of shells. Under these circumstances Mr. Fletcher had to wait for directions from Mr. Charles Crommelin, the Bombay Governor.[1]

On perusing Captain Hopkin's letter to Mr. Fletcher the President seems to have clearly grasped the gravity of the situation. That the news proved very disagreeable is made evident by the following passage from the Bombay Castle Diary. We considered "likewise the two Letters extracted immediately before the Consultation, Mr. Bruce Fletcher with that to him from Captain John Hopkins, giving the disagreeable account of his having been compelled to retreat". Now at this time the *Worcester* lay in the Bombay Harbour ready to sail for Persia; but as there was an immediate necessity of reinforcements at Rajpuri it was resolved to send this detachment to the latter place. At the same time Major John Gouin was also sent to Rajpuri with as many men as the Bombay garrison could conveniently spare. Both Mr. Bruce Fletcher and Major John Gouin were given orders not to act independently but jointly and in committee when discussing and deciding on the course of action to be adopted.[2] On the same day a letter was dispatched by the President to Mr. Fletcher to discontinue all further operations till the arrival of a reinforcement from Bombay.[3] The reinforcement left Bombay on Saturday the 29th of November, 1767.

In the instructions to the Janjira Committee, the President directed them to use the most effectual means possible to bring about an immediate settlement, as the speedy return of the Bombay force was absolutely essential to the interest of the Honble. Company. As regards the ship *Worcester* the Committee was informed not to detain her except in case of urgent necessity. Mr. George Hoarsely was ordered to act as the Secretary to the Committee.[4]

Major John Gouin reached Janjira on the 30th of November, 1767. But his soldiers were not able to complete their landing

[1] From Bruce Fletcher to the President, 22nd November, 1767, Bombay Castle Diary, 24th November, 1767, *Appendix*, No. 272.

[2] From Bruce Fletcher to the President, Bombay Castle Diary, 24th November, 1767, *Appendix*, No. 273.

[3] From the President to Bruce Fletcher at Janjira, Bombay Castle Diary, 24th November, 1767, *Appendix*, No. 274.

[4] Instructions to the Janjira Committee, 28th November, 1767, *Appendix*, No. 275.

on that day. At seven o'clock on the morning of the 1st of December, the British troops, according to their previous arrangement, were put on shore at three different places at once, so that they were divided into three separate little bands. They met with a very cold reception. According to the official account "the first Division upon the landing being galled by small parties on the Hills some Tiles (?) were ordered to dislodge them which they presently effected". The chief place from which the enemy attacked them was a fortified hill from which they fired "Grape Shots" and threw "Rockets" upon the English; but unfortunately for them little harm could be effected. "Upon the appearance of the second Division under Captain Borje which had marched round upon the Rear & Flank upon the edge of the Hill, they retired with the utmost precipitation leaving their Guns and Ammunition behind them, and the third Division under Captain Hopkins made itself master of the southern summit of the Hill, and secured them from any attempts from thence." Within a short space of three hours, that is by ten o'clock in the morning, peace was once more restored. Major Gouin fixed his headquarters in such a position as to take the best advantage of the success he had achieved in the morning. But the victory was a costly one.

We have stated above that the English at the beginning of this action hoped to concur with the forces of Sidi Yakut. But it was found afterwards that they could neither rely on his information nor on his assistance. His whole force consisted of about one hundred and forty men which was the utmost he could spare from among the soldiers who garrisoned his fort. Therefore, it was clear to the English that if they thought of continuing the war, they would have to rely on their own unaided strength. Major Gouin made up his mind not to make a move and remained till he should have received definite instructions from the President whether to march towards the Fort of Medgur or not. Even if they became master of it, Sidi Yakut was not in a position to defend it.[1]

No doubt the Bombay Governor was very pleased at the success which the Janjira Committee had achieved and sincerely congratulated them. But he wondered why the Fort of Medgur had not by this time been taken, since according to the information of Mr. Fletcher it could be done with ease. He expressed

[1] From the Janjira Committee to the President at Bombay, 3rd December, 1767, Bombay Castle Diary, 5th December, 1767, *Appendix*, No. 276.

the wish that the Committee should complete the task entrusted to them as soon as possible, and put the fort in the possession of Sidi Yakut. The latter was directed to exert all in his power to hold it by himself after it was placed under his care, for it was impossible for the English to keep a force at Janjira for the purpose of holding Medgur.[1]

Major Gouin was correct in his belief that the Fort of Medgur could be taken with the greatest ease. As a matter of fact no armed force was necessary. As soon as the English troops approached the fort, the Kiledar was ready to deliver it into their hands, for Sidi Abdul Rahim had made good his escape and withdrawn into Maratha territory.

After the military operations had thus come to a successful end, the force which was intended for Persia started for Bombay and expected to arrive there on the 14th of December, 1767. Sidi Yakut seemed very pleased at the fort being once more in his possession, for he agreed to hand over to the English one thousand Morahs of batty in payment of part of his debt. But as the Rajpuri and the Bombay measures differed in weight he sent together with the money certain trusted men with orders to weigh at Bombay and to fix the price. The remaining debt to the Honourable Company he promised to discharge in cash.[2]

The President did not attach much importance to this promise. He ordered the remaining troops, which the Janjira Committee had at their disposal, to stay at Janjira "until they .... Enquiry in their power as to Sciddee Yaucood's annual Revenue, the amount of necessary Charges, what sum he might be supposed to have ready money and the means by which he proposed clearing his debts to our Honble Masters". Nor need we wonder at the President's measures; for the Sidi's debt had been considerably increased by the present Janjira expedition. It was quite reasonable on the part of the President to direct the English troops not to leave till arrangements had been made for the liquidation of the Sidi's debt. It is true the Sidi had consented to deliver one thousand morahs of batty, but he had promised this quantity to the Bombay Governor long before the Janjira expedition took place. "Wee could not doubt," observes the President, "but he would now be

[1] From the President to the Janjira Committee, Bombay Castle Diary, 5th December, 1767, *Appendix*, No. 277.

[2] From the Janjira Committee to the President, Bombay Castle Diary, 13th December, 1767, *Appendix*, No. 278.

able to send a much larger Quantity as he had by that means secured the whole of the present Crop."[1]

The Janjira Committee succeeded in obtaining from the Sidi not only Rs. 17,000 in cash, but in addition three boats loaded with batty. The *Success* ketch was directed to accompany them after her return from Fort Victoria where she had been sent to carry back Mr. Fletcher to his former destination.[2]

A letter from the Factors at Fort Victoria brought the news that Sidi Abdul Rahim, who had fled from Janjira into the Maratha territory, had once more made his appearance near "Goregome" (Goregaon) with more than two hundred men. This news, which the President first learned from Abdul Gunney, was confirmed by a letter from Sidi Yakut. Hence, necessary steps were to be taken to make Sidi Abdul Rahim withdraw from that place and the districts adjacent to it.[3]

But by this time the English were weary of settling the endless disputes which arose every now and then between the two Sidis. Besides, it was a troublesome affair to provide time after time ships to help Sidi Yakut Khan. The President informed Yakut Khan to come to a final settlement and to settle on Sidi Abdul Rahim a suitable allowance.[4]

After the return of Major Gouin from Janjira, "Caun Iadah" (Khan Ida?), a new enemy of Sidi Yakut Khan, caused fresh disturbances in the country. This Ida Khan with the help of the Marathas once more deprived Sidi Yakut Khan of the Fort of Medgur. Thereupon, the Sidi, according to custom, once more earnestly requested the English to take steps and measures by which he could recover the lost fort. The English had been informed of this by a letter from Sidi Yakut Khan dated the 15th instant, but they had not taken any steps to send their forces against Ida Khan. The Sidi informed the English that he would not be in a position to make the promised payments until he would once more be in possession of the fort. He added that under the circumstances all he could do was to send one thousand morahs of batty as formerly promised.[5] We do

[1] From the President at Bombay to the Janjira Committee, Bombay Castle Diary, 13th December, 1767, *Appendix*, No. 279.

[2] From Janjira to the President at Bombay, 15th December, 1767, *Appendix*, No. 280.

[3] From the Factors at Fort Victoria to the President at Bombay, Bombay Castle Diary, 22nd December, 1767, *Appendix*, No. 281.

[4] Bombay Castle Diary, 22nd December, 1767, *Appendix*, No. 282.

[5] From Sidi Yakut Khan to the President at Bombay, 20th December, 1767, Bombay Castle Diary, 23rd December, 1767, *Appendix*, No. 283.

not know what effect this letter produced in Bombay, nor have we been able to ascertain whether the English helped him to recover the Fort of Medgur.

By the middle of May, 1768, the longed-for peace between Sidi Yakut Khan of Janjira and Sidi Abdul Rahim was concluded through the mediation of the President at Bombay. Though the two Sidis were not present on this occasion they had sent their accredited Agents to assist at the Conference. But as the Agents had not been furnished with the necessary powers to bind their respective masters to observe and keep the terms of the agreement, Mr. Davies Carnegie was sent to Rajpuri "to see that the several Articles are duly carried into Execution, and to use his best Endeavours to promote a sincere Reconcertration (friendship) taking place between them".[1] This new ambassador proved himself unable to carry out the instructions with which he had been entrusted. As a matter of fact, no compromise was effected in 1768. But four years later, in 1772, an agreement was finally arrived at by which Abdul Rahim was put in possession of Danda-Rajpuri in subordination to Sidi Yakut, and was also promised the right of succession to Janjira. He succeeded Sidi Yakut Khan in 1784. The various articles of the treaty of 1772 are given in Aitchison's *Treaties*.[2] This treaty does not seem to be mentioned in the unpublished documents to which we have had access.

[1] Bombay Castle Diary, 20th May, 1768, *Appendix*, No. 284.
[2] Aitchison, *Treaties, Engagements and Sanads*, VII, pp. 137-8.

CHAPTER IX

LAST GLIMPSES OF THE SIDIS

(1772-1840)

Mention has already been made in the previous chapter of the treaty of 1772 by which the differences between Sidi Yakut Khan and Sidi Abdul Rahim were finally adjusted. According to this treaty Sidi Abdul Rahim was promised the succession of Rajpuri. Accordingly, on the death of Sidi Yakut, Abdul Rahim mounted the gadi. He did not reign long, for he died in 1784, bequeathing the principality to his eldest son Abdul Karim Khan, surnamed Balu Mian. But Balu Mian was destined never to sway the sceptre over the island state. The succession to the throne was disputed by Sidi Jauhar, who claimed the regency in the name of Balu Mian's younger brother. Rather than submit to the intrigues of this upstart, who had his younger brother in his power, Balu Mian fled to Poona. In Poona his chief endeavour was to make matters unpleasant for his enemy, Sidi Jauhar. He bartered the state of Janjira for exclusive landed property near Surat, yielding Rs. 75,000 a year and afterwards to be increased to the value of the revenues of Janjira. As this engagement freed the English of the burdensome obligations which bound them to Janjira, they were only too glad to ratify the treaty, which they did on 6th June, 1791.[1] With this treaty the last vestige of the Sidis in Indian affairs passed away.

Casting a glance backwards and reviewing the series of events which we have traced, it would at first seem that commercial activities alone brought the English to take an active part (interest) in the doings of the Sidis. At the same time it must be admitted that political considerations played an important part in the policy of English interference. These political designs were chiefly successful because they had behind them "the enormous reservoir of the British democracy with all its collective talents and resources, while our Nawabs and Mahrajas had behind them none but a few self-seeking followers and hireling troops. They did not lead any national opposition to the foreign Conquerors."[2]

[1] Aitchison, *Treaties, Engagements and Sanads*, VII, p. 130.
[2] Jadunath Sarkar, *Mughal Administration*, pp. 150-1.

The Sidis, who had exerted a certain amount of influence on the unstable politics of India at the time, not only witnessed, but were to a certain extent instrumental in, this success, as far as the Bombay Presidency was concerned. They were also more or less responsible for the sad fate which overtook them, their gradual disappearance as a political power. The events that were instrumental in sapping the power which they once wielded have been narrated in the foregoing pages.

After the Sidis were eliminated as a political factor, their doings do not occupy a very large space in the records. We obtain glimpses here and there of several occurrences, which led to an interchange of communications between the Khan of Janjira and the English at a period when the latter had established themselves as the sovereign power in India. No doubt, one or two of such occurrences are apt to bring to the forefront the character of the relations between Bombay and Janjira. As a rule the circumstances leading to these pourparlers may be easily ascertained from the documents, but their result can hardly ever be determined, owing to the lack of documentary evidence. In spite of this lack of detailed information, the correspondence between the English and the Sidis evidences the definite political attitude assumed by either party. The Sidis were anxious not to give offence, yet they did not hesitate to assert certain rights, claims and customary dues.[1] But these demands were but a shadow of the power that had been theirs in the past. The English as a rule simply discountenanced as pretentious the claims of their former rivals, yet they showed themselves conciliatory, and did not gratuitously insult a fallen foe. It now remains for us to give a short account of these various events. Though this account must necessarily be imperfect in detail, it may help us to obtain a final glimpse of Janjira trying to play the role of an independent political power in however limited a circle of widening greatness and weakening influence. For the sake of convenience, as also on account of the scantiness of the records which makes a continuous narrative impossible, we have classified the communications that passed between the Khan and the English at the period into a series of groups, each group referring to the particular event of which the documents comprised in it speak.

Our earliest group of documents—earliest in point of date—yields only a fragmentary account of an incident which is to all

[1] From Sidi Yakut Khan of Janjira to Sir Evan Nepean, the Governor of Bombay, 7th December, 1817, *Appendix*, No. 317.

appearances not only unpleasant to read, but unimportant to read, from the point of view of the relations between the Bombay and the Janjira Governments. One of these documents is a petition, dated the 9th of May, 1809, from the Kazi Abdulla Arai and twenty four others, complaining of divers acts of oppression committed by the Sidi against certain of his subjects resident within his jurisdiction, and invoking the intervention of the Bombay Government in the matter. The character of the grievances of the petitioners may be gathered from the following passage in their petition :—

"As an instance of the severe sufferings and afflictions which our relations, who are settled in that quarter, have experienced, we need only notice that not long ago, the Khan above alluded to suddenly sent several of his peons to the Village of Seeodun, and posted them around their houses, as if to invest them and now forcibly demands their daughters for himself and sons, which cannot but appear as an act of excessive oppression, for we have never before contracted any connection with him; and such is the degree of alarm and terror excited among our relatives, whose houses have been besieged, that they can neither enjoy sleep or food, and have every prospect of annihilation before them."[1]

Such is the charge levelled against the Sidi in the petition; but unluckily, in the absence of any letter or document containing an explanation or defence on his part, (and certainly the Sidi would not have been slow to put forward a defence, if he had been challenged with a demand for explanation) we are left without the means to ascertain the extent of its truth, or—falsehood. Be that as it may, the Bombay Government was guilty of no delay in bestirring itself in response to the petition; for we find recorded in a minute of the 13th May, 1809, that "the parties appearing in great tribulation, the Governor instructed Mr. Goodwin on the 10th instant to send for the Scidees' Wukeel and desire him to write to his Master, to desist from such oppressive means of procuring family alliance, such as from his cast and colour, the petitioners, who are men of great respectability, are not unreasonably averse to".[2]

At the same time the Governor of Bombay dispatched a letter to the Sidi, asking him to take "effectual measures to remove the cause of the present reproach and to admit of no compulsory process in cases of such great delicacy, where no influence should

[1] From Kazi Abdullah and 24 others to the Governor of Bombay, 9th May, 1809, *Appendix*, No. 292.

[2] Minute, 13th May, 1809, *Appendix*, No. 293.

operate but that of the respectable head of the respectable families in the disposal of their children".[1] The letter, which is the last document in relation to this episode, is a judicious admonition from beginning to end : let us hope the Sidi submitted to it with good grace.

The next glimpse that we obtain of the Sidi is in circumstances fraught with a significance that only a close perusal of the documents can reveal. These documents constitute our second group. The narrative which they relate opens with an application by the Sidi to the Government of Bombay for exemption from certain Customs duties on grain belonging to him which passed through the Company's territories. The nature of the request, as well as the mode of preferring it, can best be seen from the following extract from a letter of the Sidi of 22nd October, 1813.

"Whereas this the goodness of the all bountiful Providence the period had arrived for gathering in the harvest, and as the grain of several villages belong to me, forms a depot for the supply of this Island, and is annually imported, thro' the Bancoots River without the payment of duties ; I am therefore induced by the intimate connection, which has so long subsisted, and the friendly relations maintained by your predecessors, to prefer an usual request that an order may be issued to the Resident at Bancoote to allow the rice, naglee, and other grains to pass without let, on account of Customs, agreeable to established Custom, and deliver the same to my Agent Shaikh Mehtab, in order that vessels may be dispatched, and the grain, which is intended as a stock, may be conveyed to the different posts within my jurisdiction."[2]

The Governor of Bombay in his reply, dated the 20th of December, expressed in polite terms his inability to comply with the request of the Sidi, adding "a diminution of the Revenues" of the Company on account of such exemptions as the Sidi claimed, as a reason for not extending to him the favour of a compliance with it. The words in which the Governor rejected the Sidi's application make amusing reading :

"In consideration of the heavy loss which the Honble Company has been found to sustain by exemptions of this description, I have been forced to the necessity of coming to a determination to discontinue them in future, as on an examination I

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[1] From the Governor of Bombay to the Sidi of Janjira, 3rd January, 1811, *Appendix*, No. 294.

[2] From Sidi Yakut Khan of Janjira to the Governor of Bombay, 22nd October, 1813, *Appendix*, No. 297.

found that a dimunition of the revenues had been occasioned by such exemptions to an amount of no less than several thousands of Rupees per annum, under an impression that I could not consistently with a due attention to the Interest of my honourable employers make such a sacrifice without securing to them some equivalent." Of course, the Governor sought to take the sharp edge off his refusal by pointing out in conclusion that a similar application had recently been made to him by the Sidi's neighbour at Colaba, to which the same reply as the one he had the honour of communicating to the Sidi had been given. He also pointed out that it could not but be obvious to the Sidi, as well as to others (though as we shall notice in a subsequent letter, it was not so easily obvious to the Sidi as the Governor supposed), that the longer these indulgences were continued, the more difficulty would be found in withdrawing them. He concluded that, as a rule rendered general could not be construed by any one affected by it as an individual disparagement, the Sidi ought not to take umbrage at the withdrawal of his privilege, but should on the contrary "readily admit the propriety and the expediency of the measure". Finally, the Governor conveyed to him "the sincere desire of this Government to maintain the relations of amity with the state of Zujeera".[1]

As we shall observe later on, the claim of the Sidi to exemption from the Customs duties alluded to was no novel demand on the munificence of the Honourable Company, but seems to have been based on a well-established privilege, which had been recognised and conceded to him by previous governments. The intimation to him of its withdrawal in the Governor's reply of 20th December, 1813, led him naturally to make the following remarks in a communication of the 25th of January, 1814:

"The communication of the withdrawal of the above exemption has however surprised me a good deal, as this Island (of Janjira) and the part of Bombay are identified, and the prosperity, or the reverse of either must equally affect the other. From the most remote period, going back even to the commencement of the Honble Company's authority, such a course of amicable and friendly connection has been closely observed between the two governments. Your predecessors also, having thoroughly examined this matter, with the eye of penetration in the scale of

[1] From the Governor of Bombay to the Sidi of Janjira, 20th December, 1813, *Appendix*, No. 297.

friendship, and having wisely weighed it in the balance of unanimity, agreed to and contracted these engagements; and the practice has been continued in conformity thereto up to the present period; at the same time that I admit the correctness of which you have stated, regarding the impression on your mind, as to the loss or otherwise thence accruing; but neither the one nor the other can result to either party, of the exemption of two hundred and fifty Candy of Grain, from the payment of the duties. That circumstance must be considered as a mark of attention and civilization, highly honorable and creditable to both Governments; and, which was as clear as noon day, must tend to consolidate the harmony and concordance of the two countries. These indulgences were as a cause of joy and triumph & given effect to accordingly. They cannot in fact tend to injuring either government, even to the extint of a hair; under these circumstances reason can never sanction or promote the interruption of friendly observances of such long standing, or the annihilation of such intimate engagements entered into by your predecessors; & especially as the Honble Company, in their wisdom and intelligence, have never held the ruler of Kolaba and others on the same footing, in point of rank and respectability, with this Government; but as you are every way distinguished for your wisdom and experience, and are fully acquainted with the vicissitudes of power, I doubt not that you will gratify me, not only with your favorable answer, but with the usual order to the Resident at Bancoote."[1]

The lengthy quotation from the Sidi's letter shows unmistakably that he tried to convince the Bombay Government of the impropriety of withdrawing his privilege by making out a fair case for himself and by meeting every argument that could be advanced against it. The answer of the Bombay Government was in substance nothing but a repetition of their former reply, in which they had refused the Sidi's claim to exemption from duties on his grain. Thus the Governor of Bombay wrote on 13th March, 1814:—

"The explanation which I entered into in the letter, to which I have above alluded, have put you in possession of the grounds, on which the determination of this Government had been formed, and I regret that I do not feel myself justified in proposing to my colleagues a revival of the exemption, as it appears that, until within the last six years, the average quantity of Grain passed by

[1] From the Sidi of Janjira to the Governor of Bombay, 25th January, 1814, *Appendix*, No. 298.

Bancoote free of duties, for the right preceding years, amounted to no more than thirty-four Candies per annum, whereas your present object is to obtain an extension of that indulgence to two hundred and fifty." Whether the quantity of grain exempted from duty amounted to thirty-four candies, as alleged by the Governor, or two hundred and fifty candies, as affirmed by the Sidi, the question at issue between the two clearly was whether the Sidi had a right to the exemption he demanded, and whether the Company were bound to respect that right, as it usually professed to do in respect of the rights of other powers. But on that question the Governor had nothing further to declare in addition to what he had stated in his previous letter. "I shall always consider it," he proceeds to say in his letter of the 13th March, "a necessary part of the duties of my office to cultivate a friendly intercourse with you and other native princes on the coast; but calls of the same description have recently become so frequent, and such concessions have been required that it has been deemed necessary to abolish the System altogether; and you cannot be insensible that any deviation from that resolution in your favour could not fail to give umbrage to other States, and establish a precedent which I am anxious to avoid. I trust, therefore, that you will, on a reconsideration of the subject, be induced to waive the request, particularly as I cannot for the reasons I have already stated, encouraged any expectation of a compliance with it."[1]

But the ruler of Janjira seems to have had in him a strain of John Bull himself, and he was not to be done out of his rights without efforts on his part to enforce due observance of them by the Company. Consequently, he made a fresh attempt to force his claim on the attention of the Governor—this time through the medium of a petition by his Vakil (representative) Sheikh Mehtaub. As the petition explicitly refers to the grounds on which the Sidi advanced his claim, we think it will bear reproduction in extenso :—

"That your Petitioner, in conformity to the direction of the Seedee, beg leave to state for your Consideration that a long time ago that the Grain for the Consumption of the Fort of Zujeera is allowed free by your Government to pass thro' the Bancoote River; but once, two or three years previously to his Death, the late Governor Duncan sent for your Petitioner to ascertain from him the extent of the annual Grain passing duty free thro'

[1] From the Governor of Bombay to the Sidi of Janjira, 13th March, 1814, *Appendix*, No. 300.

Bancoote, Your Petitioner informed him on that occasion that, in the event of the regular raw, in which year Produce as far as 250 Candies of Grain, and the inferior one from 200 to 225 Candies, but out of which the Sepoys of that Government were supplying there with Grain on account of their wages, the remaining Grain of about 135 to 140 Candies annually passing thro' the Bancoote River; a reference however on this subject made by that Gentleman to Bancoote, and a similar statement was thence rendered by the Resident to him, when the late Mr. Duncan informed him that the quantity of Grain annually passing thro' Bancoote being a trifle and particularly in view of the long friendship and understanding existing between the two Governments, Granted the exemption in issuing annually usual orders upon the Resident at Bancoote, and your honor was pleased to grant the similar indulgence last year; Under which Circumstances your Petitioner most respectfully request that your Honour will be graciously pleased, in Consideration of the amicable relations of friendship that subsists between the two Governments, to Continue the indulgence, which hitherto remained in force from a long time, in granting him usual order to the Resident at Bancoote allowing the grain to pass free of duties, and besides your Petitioner however learnt that the same indulgence have been allowed by your Honor in favor of the other Neighbourhood Chieftains, Your Petitioner therefore is in hopes that his Application with your Favourable Consideration (will be granted), as the administration of Seedee Yakoot Khan has hitherto experienced every kindness from your Honors Government, an act will redound to your credit."[1]

Clear as the grounds are on which the Sidi felt himself justified in persisting in the affirmation of his privilege, nowhere does he state his claim so fully as in a letter to the Governor of Bombay, dated the 29th of December, 1816. In it he dates the origin of his privilege from the time of the Maratha dynasty. "During the time that Ballajee Bajeerow was Paishwa at Poona and Mr. Bourcher occupied the Government chair of Bombay," he informs the Governor, "the village of Bancoote was in the possession of the Paishwa, and at that the Revenue Batty of this Island used to be imported by Sea, thro' Bancoote without the payment of duties." He then goes on to enumerate the successive Governors of the Company, including the one

[1] The Humble Petition of Shaikh Mehtab, the Vakil of Sidi Yakut Khan of Janjira, to the Governor of Bombay, 10th May, 1814, *Appendix*, No. 302.

whom he was now addressing, who had confirmed him in the enjoyment of his privilege. "But when Bancoote passed from the hands of the Paishwa into the possession of the Company," he continues, "Governor Bourchier, after ascertaining the rights of both parties determined to conform to what had been usual, and his successors, Mr. Crommelin, Mr. Hodges, Mr. Hornby, Mr. Baddam, and up to the time of Mr. Duncan and Mr. Brown, the same rule was adhered to. Your Excellency also, following the practice of your predecessors, issued an order to the Resident at Bancoote to pass the said grain; thereby confirming the friendly relations which have so long subsisted between the two Governments." Finally, adverting to the ground that had been put forward for withdrawing his privilege, namely, that a restitution of it would give umbrage to the chiefs in a similar plight, he appeals once more to the Government to change its resolve to put an end to his enjoyment of a long-respected privilege. "But Your Excellency lately intimated," he says, "that in consequence of the withdrawal of this exemption from the Chieftain of Colaba, you could not continue it to me. *It has, however, recently come to my knowledge, that the Chieftain has obtained your acquiescence in this respect,* I therefore hope that you will kindly regard me as an old ally, and favour me with an order to my Resident of Bancoote for passing the grain, that it may be imported through the Bancoote river free of duties, since not one of your predecessors refused to give effect to a custom of such long-standing, and if Your Excellency will also kindly conform to it, I shall deem myself extremely favored."[1]

In addition to this communication to the Governor, the Sidi addressed two letters to officials of eminence in the Bombay Government—one to Mr. Warden, Chief Secretary to Government, and the other to Mr. Goodwin, Secretary and Translator in the Office of Country Correspondence—soliciting their aid in persuading the Governor of the justice of his claim.[2] But to no avail.

Certainly the revival by the paramount power of a long-enjoyed privilege might have been an act of grace on its part towards the Sidi. But at the period of the sunset of the Sidi's political power, the act was really not necessary. So we have

[1] From Yakut Khan of Janjira to the Governor of Bombay, 29th December, 1816, *Appendix,* No. 303.

[2] From Sidi Yakut Khan of Janjira to Warden, 29th December, 1816, *Appendix,* No. 305; from Yakut Khan to R. T. Goodwin, 29th December, 1816, *Appendix,* No. 306.

the reply of the Governor of Bombay to the Sidi's above-mentioned letter in these terms :—

"The sentiments of the Right Honble the Governor-in-Council regarding the indulgence you have solicited are so fully stated in his letter of the 20th of December, 1813, that His Excellency considers it unnecessary to enter into any further explanations on your present application and has accordingly directed me to refer you to that letter, which was not written without the most mature consideration of all the circumstances of the case ; in addition to which I may however be permitted to observe that the Governor-in-Council would not consider himself justified in making any such sacrifice of the Honble Company's Revenues without some adequate return, nor ought it to be desired from any Independent State, by another, unless accompanied by such equivalent." [1]

The third group of documents is a letter from Yakut Khan, dated the 3rd of May, 1825, referring to a letter and memorandum from the Bombay Government which contained a demand for restitution to certain persons, Balkrishna and Bomanjee by name, of goods alleged to have been lost by them under particular circumstances. It speaks of the "Putemaree Lukshmee Tudel, belonging to Balkrishna and Bomanjee, coming from the Malabar Coast", having been wrecked at Murad and the goods on board to the amount of three thousand rupees "plundered by the inhabitants of Nadgaon, Boorlee, &c". This deprivation suffered by Balkrishna and Bomanjee was the occasion of the request addressed to Yakut Khan by the Bombay Government for restitution of their goods to them. Previous to this official request, Mr. Morgarr, the Company's Solicitor, had addressed a communication to the Khan on the subject, who proceeds to relate that he "in consequence made many inquiries into the particulars of the case ; at this time Eduljee was in Murad (Murud) and having collected the goods scattered on the shore, and those which yet remained in the Patemar ; after which he again returned accompanied by a Peon and your (the British Governor's) letter, I then collected all the persons supposed to be concerned in the plunder of the Patemar, and delivered them over to Eduljee, desiring him to repossess himself of any of his goods which he might discover in their possession, which he consequently did, giving in return a discharge in full, written in the Mahratta language and bearing his signature in Guzeratee and thus the

[1] From R. T. Goodwin to the Sidi of Janjira, 30th January, 1817, *Appendix*, No. 308.

affair terminated." The Khan adds that:—"The Coolies have made a representation to me stating that the only goods which they seized were 1225 Cocoa Nuts, as will appear from the accompanying Krar Nameh, from which the truth or falsehood of the statement will appear." He winds up with a prayer to the Governor that "You will therefore be pleased to take the affair into your consideration, and to whatever decision you may come, by that will the people be guided".[1] But the writing of Eduljee, containing his 'discharge in full', if ever it was passed by him, certainly did not conclude the matter. From a letter of the 16th of July, 1825, it appears that a request had been made to Yakut Khan for "further assistance" to "Balcushnee and Bomanjee for the recovery of their plundered property"; a request which the Khan declares with oriental courtesy to have afforded him "much pleasure". But the reality of this courteous avowal appears dubious, when we can perceive from his own account that such requests from the Honourable the Governor of the Company Bahadur at Bombay did not give him an easy time of it. This we gather from a rather vague statement which he makes in a letter to the effect that—

"Some time ago Eduljee Parsee arrived here from the Honorable the Governor's letter in consequence of which a Sirkar Sepoy was desired to attend on him, and whatever we discovered was restored to Eduljee, he giving in return a receipt in full." From this it seems that the request which afforded him "much pleasure" had already been preceded by one of a similar kind and bearing on the same matter, and following that referred to in the letter of the 3rd May. The inquiries he had to undertake at the successive requests of the Governor do not appear to have been pleasant, so far as his personal comfort went, if we are to place any reliance on the statements he makes regarding them; nor was their procedure enlivening in character. Indeed, on a former occasion "there was some altercation with the coolies of Nadgaon respecting the cocoanuts which had been carried off; these cocoanuts are however placed in deposit in the Sirkar's Muhal". But he seems to have assured himself that "exclusive of these, they have taken away of nothing"; though he goes on to say that "The Tundel however says that some Dubbahs of Ghee, bags of Sesamum, and turmeric have been carried off; but this the Coolies utterly deny, saying that if a

[1] From Sidi Yakut Khan of Janjira to the Honble. Mountstuart Elphinstone, the Governor of Bombay, 3rd May, 1825, *Appendix*, No. 311.

Ser of the above mentioned articles can be discovered in their possession, they will then become convicted as the criminals; and in the meantime they are willing to take any oath that may be prescribed; and in attestation of their truths will even place their hands on the cow." To add to the difficulties of pseudo-judicial enquiry, the depositions of these coolies, transmitted to the Honourable, the Governor, were not, it seems, "rightly understood". However, a letter from the Governor to which the Khan's of the 16th July seems to be a reply, led to further investigations in the same matter. The procedure does not seem to have varied materially from that followed on previous occasions; for the Khan says:—

"......... On receipt of your letter I immediately summoned the coolies of the boat, and made a most minute examination, the result of which was that they persisted in their former declarations, positively affirming that they had plundered nothing but the cocoanuts. I then threatened to send them to Bombay, thinking by this means to intimidate them, and to extract from them a confession, but this plan failed, and they all unanimously declared that they were ready to present themselves before the Hon. the Governor, only requesting a delay of one month on account of the Cholera Morbus, to which I consented; and took their written obligations to that effect; so that the blessing of the Almighty, after one month they will make their appearance before the Honourable the Governor, when an investigation will be made according to the rules of justice, and equitable decision be given. The Cocoanuts which are herein deposit, the owners may either sell or remove."[1]

But all the bustle and demonstrations of compliance on the Khan's part do not seem to have satisfied the authorities at Bombay; for after a long interval, we find from a letter of his, dated the 24th of September, 1825, that he has once more "the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a letter from the Honble the Governor under date the 6th of Suffur 1241 (20th September, 1825), requesting me to settle the claims of Balcristma Bomanjee on the Coolies". He describes in the same letter how he proceeded to comply with the request:—

"I accordingly caused 8 coolies to be brought before me; but as some of them have died of Cholera, I could examine those only who survived; they declared before me that they will (not)

[1] From Sidi Yakut Khan to Mr. Simson, the Acting Persian Secretary to Government, 16th July, 1825, *Appendix*, No. 311.

readily take anything excepting a small quantity of Cocoanuts." But one little departure from the practice he usually followed in similar inquiries is particularly noticeable. Perhaps finding the obduracy of the coolies in denying the act of plunder equally matched by the obduracy of the Bombay Government in refusing to believe in the thoroughness of his inquiries and consequently in insisting upon restitution or compensation being made to the owners of the ill-starred "Putemaree", he sent a party of these coolies to Bombay that they might be examined by the Governor himself. "Now I have," he says, "dispatched them with this Letter to wait upon you with the hope that this affair may be satisfactorily settled in at Bombay."

The party of coolies did arrive at Bombay. We are informed of the fact in a foot-note penned to the Khan's letter of the 24th of September by the Persian Secretary to Government who says: "The Seedee has sent a party of Coolies to Bombay notwithstanding he was told in the last communication from the Govt. that such a step could be of no use,—they plead ignorance of the whole matter and beg to be allowed to return to their houses."[1]

The Bombay Government seems to have viewed all these efforts of the Khan to satisfy them as mere hollow professions and an empty display of readiness to comply with their oft-repeated request. The above foot-note of the Persian Secretary has to say the following on the subject:—

"The parties whose property was plundered complain extremely of the conduct of the Khan who, they say, never called the parties before him, nor enquired at all into the affair; they say that his Sire is generally reported to have received a share of the plundered property."[2] On this note of suspicion and distrust the account of this particular affair must end; for, unfortunately, the records are silent about its further progress.

Our next group of communications presents us with the utmost difficulty in deciphering their purport and meaning. It does not throw any satisfactory light on the affair to which it refers. We are left to surmise that on the capture of the Fort of Severendroog by the British, the Seedee made applications, and finally sent emissaries to those who had supplanted the Marathas "to speak on matters connected with the ancient huks (customary dues) which belonged to this Sirkar (i. e. the Sidi's Government) from

[1] From Sidi Yakut Khan to William Henry Walthen, Persian Secretary to Government, 24th September, 1825, *Appendix*, No. 312.

[2] Note, *Appendix*, No. 312.

Severendroog". The most plausible explanation of this demand seems to be that the Khan thought that he had the same right to claim his dues from the British as he had from the Marathas whom the former had displaced in the seat of power, confident in the reputation of the Company for leaving the enjoyment of others' rights undisturbed. In a communication of the Consul, dated 7th January, he addresses the Company thus on the subject :—

"I have dispatched my Buksee and Vakeel, Amjud Khan, into your (the Governor's) presence to speak on matters connected with the ancient huks, which belonged to this Sirkar, from Severendroog. Often the above-mentioned, in the time of Mr. Elphinstone, presented petitions upon this subject, but to this period no answer has been given. It is therefore hoped your Lordship will at length issue a favourable order upon this long advanced claim, as it is not the custom of the Honble Company to interfere with old established privileges."[1]

To this request a formal reply was sent by the Bombay Government that "the matters in question"[2] were under consideration. Then we suddenly come across a letter of the Sidi (Consul, 23rd January, No. 396) which takes us rather by surprise : "The object of writing this letter," he avers at the outset, "is to express to your Lordship the great wish we entertain for an interview, which is such as not to be expressed in writing." Further on, he enlightens us that "at the present time we have dispatched our Vukeel, Mahomed Umjud Khan Bukshee, to have the honour to wait upon your Lordship and to enquire after your health and welfare, the said Khaun will also make representations on our part respecting certain affairs".[3] But unfortunately, beyond a communication of the Bombay Government in the nature of "a suitable reply" to the Sidi's last-mentioned letter, "informing the Khaun that his Vakeels representations will receive every consideration,"[4] we have no other document to relieve this affair of its obscurity.

Our fifth set of documents is of greater interest than the previous four, as indicating that the Sidi was not yet so complete a

[1] From Sidi Yakut Khan to the Governor of Bombay, without date, *Appendix*, No. 313.

[2] From Charles Norris, Chief Secretary to Government, to the Acting Deputy Persian Secretary, 5th January, 1832, *Appendix*, No. 314.

[3] From the Khan of Janjira to the Governor of Bombay, 1st January, 1833, *Appendix*, No. 315.

[4] From Charles Norris to the Persian Secretary, 23rd January, 1833, *Appendix*, No. [illegible]6.

vassal of the paramount power that the exercise of some of his independent rights did not spell some inconvenience to the latter. The genesis of these fresh bickerings between the two seems to be a letter from the Collector of Thana, dated the 31st of March, 1834, to the authorities at Bombay. The second paragraph of the letter runs as follows :

"In reply /I beg to/state that no illicit coining has been discovered in these Districts, but, from the report of a man, sent expressly into the Territories of the Hubshee and Angria, it appears that the former has a Mint at work in the Fort of Junjeera, and theRupees are said to be made by Dado Shete Reodundaker ; it is said to have been at work a month or so ; I beg to forward four Rupees said to have been coined there, they have a mark on the side, and are exchanged, according to the persons Account who was sent, at the rate of /100/ for /100/ one hundred Chinchoree rupees ; it was further stated by one of the Hubshee's people that these Rupees were made for circulation in his territories and for his Expences."[1]

To the above document is appended a Resolution of the 14th April, couched in the following significant terms :

"Ordered that Extract (Para 2nd) of the letter from the Collector of Tanna and dated the 31st ultimo be transferred for consideration in the Political Department, in order that the nature of the existing relations between the Governments of the Honble Company and the Hubshee may be defined, as upon them will depend the right of this Government to prevent a coinage similar to that current in its territories being carried on in those of Hubshee."[2]

The work of investigation into the nature of the relations between the two Governments was carried on in right earnest as evidenced by a letter, dated the 10th of May, 1834, and addressed to the Poona Agent, intimating to him the desire of the Right Honourable, the Governor in Council "That you will forward to Government with as little delay as possible a copy of any treaty or agreement between the Peshwa & Scidee Yakoot Khan Chief of Zunjeera forthcoming from the Poona Dupthur, also copy of any subsequent treaty or agreement between the Scidee & the British Govt. now extant".[3] After a diligent search among the

[1] Extract of a letter from the Collector of Thana, 31st March, 1834, *Appendix*, No. 318.

[2] Resolution of the 14th April, 1834, *Appendix*, No. 318.

[3] From Charles Norris to the Agent for Poona, 10th May, 1834, *Appendix*, No. 319.

records there were forthcoming, as the Poona Agent informs the Government in a letter of the 12th of May, 1834, "copies of eleven Treaties or Agreements, which were at various times entered into between the Paishwas and the Seedee of Zinjeera"; "but with respect the other points of reference," he continues, "I beg to state for the information of the Right Honble the Governor in Council that there is no such document or record here between the Chief and the British Government." However, he hastened to add of his own accord :—"It may be useful for me to mention (though I am not aware of the object of the present reference) that I am told the Commissioner in the Deckan, some time about the month of January 1826, sent a report to the Government, or the Honble the Governor upon some subject connected with the Chieftainship in question, and which you will in all probability, be able to discover upon your Records."[1] We may be allowed here to remark in passing that our efforts to trace the document mentioned in the Agent's letter as upon the Government Records have proved futile. The investigation seems to have been patient and careful, though not fruitful of the desired results. However, the deliberations of one of the members of Government appear to have come to a head in a decision recorded in a Minute of July 20th, 1834, which speaks for itself :—

"These papers appear to me to go far to establish the independence of the Hubshee from the control of the Paishwas, and so as regards the internal management & his state he has always been considering; but it cannot be concerning that a petty chief like the Hubshee is so absolutely independent as not to be subject to the Paramount Authority. Throughout India all matters which concern the general interest, such a matter is that now before the Board, & I cannot think that the British Government should hesitate in at once putting a stop to all Coinage in every State within its limits.

"I do not know whether the Governor has yet reported that the Hubshee at any former period coined silver money. If he did not, he considered Govt. would be strengthened supposing that the Hubshee is now for the first time assuming a right which he never before exercised. This should be ascertained.

"I do not know that the agreement No. 10 brought the Hubshee more under the control of the Paishwa than he was

[1] From the Poona Agent to Charles Norris, 12th May, 1834, *Appendix*, No. 320.

previously, as notwithstanding the lapse of time this Treaty was hardly executed, & subsequently in 1799-1800 the paishwas, entered into an agreement with the Hubshee regarding the country of which he might have claimed possession under the former engagements."[1]

This Minute is the last document we have upon the subject; the rest is silence.

The sixth group comprises two brief communications. They refer to a matter of ceremony and preservation of regal dignity rather than to any serious political business. The one is a petition of Suddasew Waman, Vakeel of Nawob Yakut Khan of Janjira, to the Right Honourable Sir Robert Grant. Its object confessedly is to draw the attention of the new Governor to the fact that the petitioner "for the purpose of congratulating your honor on your accession to the Government of Bombay, has lately arrived here with his attendants; seven of whom, as is customary, brought their swords and Accoutrements, which have been detained on board of the vessel, they came in, by the directions of the officers of the Sea Customs. Your petitioner therefore prays your Honour will be graciously pleased to issue instructions to the Custom Master to permit the said accoutrements to your petitioner."[2] The curt answer to this petition, contained in a letter of the 12th of June, 1835, was that it was "against the Police Rules of this place to allow of armed persons entering the Island".[3] Trifling as the incident *prima facie* may appear, it assumes a significance of its own, when we recall in this connection a remark of Malcolm, made in reference to the ruling Chiefs of India:

"The princes and chiefs of India may in different degrees be said to be all dependent on the British government; many have little more than the name of that power they before enjoyed, but they seem, as they lose the substance, to cling to the forms of station." The petition of Yakut Khan would go to show that he was by no means free from that clinging "to forms of a station", and that Malcolm's remark may well bear an extended application to him. It is interesting to note that Malcolm proceeds to say in the very next sentence that "the pride of reason

[1] Minute, 20th July, 1834, *Appendix*, No. 321.

[2] The Petition of Sudasev Waman, Vakil to the Nawob of Janjira, to the Right Honourable Sir Robert Grant, 29th May, 1835, *Appendix*, No. 322.

[3] From Sir Robert Grant to Sudasev Waman, 12th June, 1835, *Appendix*, No. 323.

may smile at such a feeling, but it exists, and it would be alike opposite to the principles of humanity and policy to deny it gratification".[1]

A little over two months after the refusal of the request in the above petition, we learn from a communication of the 13th of August, 1835, that "the Seedee of Junzeera's vakeel having heard that the Governor has arrived in Bombay is anxious to have an opportunity of presenting the usual Sirpaw on the accession of a new Governor, and therefore has requested that some day may be fixed for that purpose".[2] The answer to this request was in the following terms :—

"Ordered that the Deputy Secretary be requested to inform the Vakeel that the Govr. intends so shortly to leave the Presidency for Poona, it will be very inconvenient to receive his visit on the present occasion ; but that Sir Robert Grant hopes that at some future period an opportunity will offer for receiving him."[3] Whether this answer was in any degree influenced by events that appear to have transpired between the rejection of the petition on the 12th June and what seems like a refusal of the request on 19th August, 1835, it is extremely difficult to conjecture.

References to these events occupy the communications of our seventh group. We are left to infer that, for reasons which are not fully given, a dispute arose between the Nawob of Joonaghur and Yakut Khan. A memorandum presented to the Honble Mr. Sutherland by Shadashew Wamun, the Vakil of the Sidi of Janjira, dated the 4th of July, 1835, points out that "it has hitherto been usual for the Nawaub of Joonaghur to pay a certain sum annually to Yakoot Khan of Jafferabad ; and whenever he was refused or tried to evade the payment of it, the Government of Bombay on an application being made, have always sent him an order to discharge the amount immediately". It proceeds to declare that "this year, however, the Nawaub has not only refused to pay the customary tribute, but has made three different attacks,—in one of which Khoosus Bakur Bhaee Sobhedar and several other persons were slain,— upon our villages, and thereby caused Yakoot Khan (my Master)

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[1] *Notes of Instructions etc. by Major-General Sir J. Malcolm,* appended to Brigg, *Letters on India,* p. 210.

[2] From H. Herbert to the Governor and Council, 13th August, 1835, *Appendix,* No. 326.

[3] Government's Resolution in the Political Department, 19th August, 1835, *Appendix,* No. 327.

much loss and damage". The memorandum solicits again the intervention of the Bombay Government in the form of a request that "an order be sent to Rajcote, to cause such arrangements to be made, that a recurrence of the murders, or of the evasion to pay the usual sum may be prevented, and also to cause a remuneration to be given for the murders, and damage already committed".

It also appears from a letter of the 23rd of May that a dispute about the same time took place in the village of Moozaferabad, belonging to Yakut Khan, between his people and the Nawob of Joonaghur, and that he deputed his "confidential, Vukeel Sudashew Waman," to the Governor of Bombay to make a representation on the subject.

The upshoot of these affrays, as we gather from the memorandum of the 4th July, seems to have been to give the Bombay Government a chance to make itself felt as a paramount power. It is probable that a Sowar (Horseman) of the Company was instrumental in quelling these affrays. But riding to Rajcote, he informed "the Saheb there" (the Political Agent for Katteawar) that the Sidi would not give him "Mohsul" (an extra allowance for assisting in restoring peace). "The Saheb" consequently sent for the Sidi's Vakil, who informed him "that it was not customary for us to give any present on such occasions, or for the Company's servants to receive it". In spite of this remonstrance, the "Mohsul" seems to have been imposed; for the memorandum of the 4th of July, 1835 ends with these words :—

"In the above affair we have acted in no way contrary to the Regulation of Government, and therefore request that Government will, having taken into consideration the friendship which has always subsisted between our Government and the Hon. Company, issue an order to the Saheb at Rajcote not to enforce the payment of the extra allowance which the 'sowars' demand."[1]

But this prayer to order the Political Agent in Katteawar to abstain from enforcing the "Mohsul" does not appear to have had any immediate effect on the Bombay Government. We are borne out in this by the fact, stated in unmistakable terms in a letter from Yakut Khan, dated the 22nd of November, 1838, that the "Mohsul" formed the subject of a long corres-

[1] From a Memorandum presented by Sadasev Waman, Vakil to the Sidi of Janjira, to the Honble Mr. Sutherland, 4th July, 1835, *Appendix*, No. 325.

pondence between the two Governments. Says the opening paragraph of the letter of the 22nd :—"I have received your letters, dated 9th Shaban (29th October) last, referring me to the answer of the 7th of April, 1836, in the subject of Mosuls & imposed by the political Agent in Katteeawar."

In the self-same letter, Yakut Khan seems to manifest a spirit of independence in once more asserting that "from time immemorial, no officer of the British Government has hitherto imposed Mohsuls upon any state ; but of late they are often sent without any consideration whatever, which is out of the mark of friendship". At the same time he was pliant enough to comply with a requisition of the Governor of Bombay without much ado ; for the latter concluded thus :

"I have to inform your honor that, agreeably to your Honor's requisition, Gunesh Rughoonath Dewan of Moozuferabad, has proceeded to Bombay, who will make a full representation to Your Honor relative to the subject connected with Kattieawar."[1]

Whether the concluding lines had a mollifying effect or for whatever reason, we learn from a communication, dated the 8th of January, 1839, and addressed by the Bombay Government to the Political Agent in Katteawar, that the Sidi did have a sort of success in the matter in dispute. The resolution of the Government, dated the 8th of January, 1839, with reference to the letter of Yakut Khan of the 22nd of November which we have noticed, runs thus :—

"Ordered that the Acting Secretary to Government in the Persian Department be requested to inform that Chief (of Janjira), in courteous terms, that the Political Agent in Kattewar has been requested to abstain from imposing Moohsuls on his state, except in cases of manifest necessity, and not until milder measures have proved ineffectual in inducing his officers to attend to the requisitions of the Political Agent."[2]

Our eighth group consists of two documents. The one contains a request on the part of the Sidi to be exempted from payment of duties on certain articles which he ordered from Surat for his requirements. It is a letter from Yakut Khan to the Governor of Bombay, dated the 28th of November, 1838, and is couched in the following terms : "I always commission

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[1] From Sidi Yakut Khan to the Persian Secretary, 22nd November, 1838, *Appendix*, No. 328.

[2] Government's Resolution in the Political Department, 8th January, 1839, *Appendix*, No. 334.

piecegoods from the Ghauts, and after every three or four years from Surat, to the value of about 5,000 Rupees.

"This year my men are going to Surat to purchase wearing apparells required by me. I therefore beg that, in consideration of the friendship between us, your Honour will be good enough to grant a pass-port, exempting the articles from the payment of duties; for the exports from Surat are liable to double duty."[1]

The other is an order of the Bombay Government expressing refusal of the request of Yakut Khan in these words:—

"Ordered that this Chief be in cautious terms informed that Government regrets being unable to comply with his request."[2]

The last group of documents is interesting as indicative of the rigour with which the Company sought to maintain purity of administration, by exacting the utmost probity from its Civil Servants. We have a letter to the Acting Collector of Thannah from Mr. Davies, dated the 20th of December, 1838, soliciting instructions in the predicament in which he had been put by a present from Mohmud Khan of Janjira. "I have the honour to inform you," says Mr. Davies, "that I yesterday received a present of a pair of Shawls from Mohmud Khaun of Zunjeera. Under the circumstances I could not, without giving offence, decline the present, and I have now to request your instructions as to how they are to be disposed of."[3]

The Acting Collector in his turn referred to Government for instructions in a letter of the 24th of December, 1838.[4] After a little over a fortnight, the fiat went forth in the form of a request in a letter to the Acting Collector, dated the 8th of January, 1839, that he would be pleased "to cause the pair of Shawls (presented) to Mr. Davies by the Khan of Janjira (Junjeera) to be sold by public auction on account of the Honble Company, reporting to government the amount which may be realised therefrom".[5]

These various extracts from the correspondence between the paramount power and the State of Janjira fully bring out the

[1] From Sidi Yakut Khan of Janjira to the Governor of Bombay, 28th November, 1838, *Appendix*, No. 329.

[2] Consultation, 9th January, 1839, *Appendix*, No. 330.

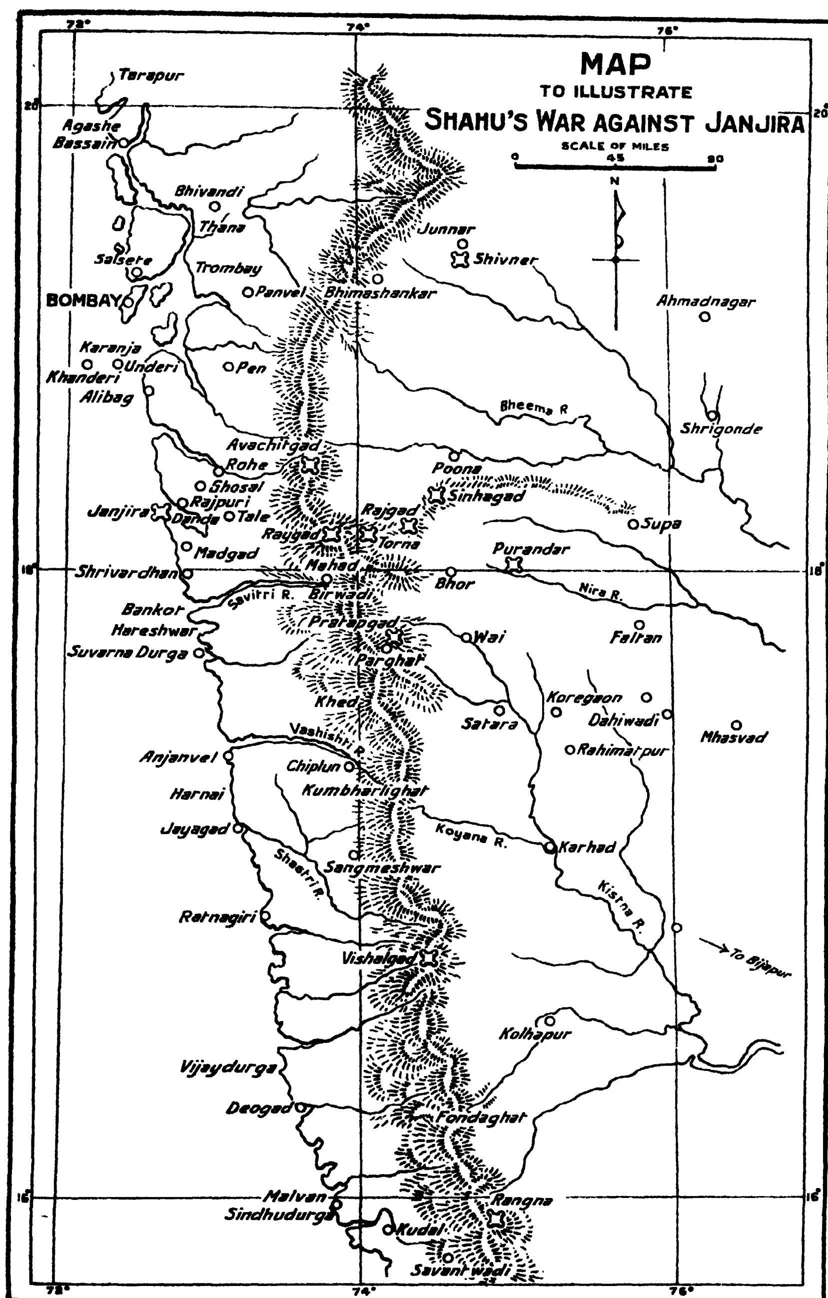
[3] From the Acting Collector of Thana to R. K. Pringle, 20th December, 1838, *Appendix*, No. 331.

[4] From the Acting Collector of Thana to R. K. Pringle, 24th December, 1838, *Appendix*, No. 332.

[5] From J. W. W. to the Acting Collector of Thana, 8th January, 1839, *Appendix*, No. 333.

assertion made in the course of this chapter. The Sidis, though they had lost the substance of power, clung tenaciously to the shadow of their former greatness. On their part the English made it a point to make the Sidis feel that they were now the paramount power in India. At the same time they scrupulously abstained from adding insult to injury, and were even considerate and observant of the rules of gentlemanly behaviour in their dealings with a fallen foe.





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APPENDIX

UNPUBLISHED DOCUMENTS

No. 1

16th October, 1669.

Hon'ble & Councill

The 12th instant we writt by Expresse and have since received a message from the Ceede of Danda Rajapore who is much strengthened by Sevagee Raja, though he cannot storme the place only thinks to starve him out notwithstanding the grand Moghull commands to withdraw his force, soe, the Ceede resolves to hold it out to the last and then hath thoughts of delivering it up to the Moghull who hath an army about Cullian commanded by Londee Cka the Portuguees Captain of Choule hath dealt falsely with him in seazing one of his vessels, after he hath assured him the contrary, soe he will not trust them, and rather desires our friendship, who he takes to have more honour, and would send his vessells hither to trade from this Port, in hopes to do it more securely, being but 4 good vessells at present, some 10 others, such as trade only on this Coast, and about 15 smaller hee may send hereafter, these we thinke not fit to refuse since it may prove so honourable and advantagious to this Port, and the denying would too much discover our tymerossity he would likewise send about 30 Horse and some Familys of women and children to ease his expense of Provisions these things are so accustomary to all distrressed neighbours, so naturall and inconsiderable to the provocation of any Enemy, that a Generall Court concluded it very reasonable to be granted, but moving the reception and enterteining the Ceede himselfe, in case he should desire it, it was unanimously agreed on we should attend your orders though wee conceive no danger therein not permitting him to come with more then 200 unarmed men, tho' as yet he hath not made any such request, & 'Tis believed if he should his stay here would not be longer then to put himselfe into a readinesse to go to Court and our obleiging herein may induce him, if your Honours &c can make any advantage thereof to a readinesse to gratefie, in any honorable Proppositions.

This place is doubtlesse of great concerne, almost invincible if not blockt up by sea, it hath 572 pieces of Ordinance in it as good report speakes, and may be kept with a small force and if occasion were some number of Portuguese souldiers might be procured, the place would be much more considerable then this, the Company formerly hath had an eye to it, and now may be the very nick of time to compasse it, if the troubles of Suratt should impead the dispatch of the Europe Shipps (which God forbid) their stay might contribute to the advance of the desighne, much might be said pro and con, we may err in being too zealous to

promote our Majesties interest, but hope you will seriously consider what to doe and pardon what is amisse herein, and let us hear from you in answer hereunto, with all speed, and if 2 or 3 ships going downe the Coast were ordered to touch here, and we empowered to appeare here with them at Banden Rajapore, if occasion should present some good might come by not having a good pretence to treat with him, he courting us at present for his owne interest, the knowledge of the place might be advantagious in the future, if noe good should be now done, and if once we had that, we could easily prevent any mischiefe coming to this, we wish the French understand not what may be done in the particular, and we are sure you will not remember, small injuries past, to the incomoding any good of import may be offered him now in this condition. We hope to send 100 Candy Care in a few days in a vessell we are in treaty for, and shall as ordered put 3 or 4 English on board her.

This is all at present from
Your Honours &c
Most Hum & Faith Servants

Henry Young
Ja: Adames.

Bombay Fort
The 16th October 1669.

Collection of Papers received from India Office, 4, (1669-71), pp. 54-6.

No. 2

11th January, 1672-3.

May it please your Honrs:

On the 24th December here arrived in this Bay about 36 Surrat Vessels which helped the Sidy of Danda Rajapore against Seevagee the Commanders whereof doth court President to assist them against Sevajee promising great matters and on the contrary here is an Envoyce from Sevagee himselfe which courts your President to assist him against the Mogull he promising likewise great rewards. Your President keeps fair with both and trusts in God to procure reputation and advantage from both sides.

Collection of Papers received from India Office, 5, pp. 52-3.

No. 3

18th March, 1672-3.

May it please your Honrs:

The other parte of the Enemys Fleete wee expected every day, and prepared ourselves for them, for wee had certain intelligence that Rickloff taking advantage of our difference with Sevagee had made an agreement with him to assist them with 3000 men for the

taking Bombay, they engaging to assist him with their whole Fleete for the retaking Danda Rajapore from the Sidye. This gave your President matter of great consideration, whereupon he dispatched letters immediately to Sevagee for the diverting him from such a designe, proposing with all advantageous offers of peace with him and the Sidye and how dangerous a neighbour the Dutch would be to both of them, Sevagee though passionately desirous of taking Danda Rajapore, against which he had spent a vast treasure and loss of neare 15000 men, yet wee presume, not dareing to trust the Dutch, did not yield to their demand, which wee suppose was one chiefe argument joyned with others that the remaining part of the Fleete never came to disturb us, but whether they are gone or continue yet at Vingurla wee have noe certain advise.

Collection of Papers received from India Office, 5, p. 61.

No. 4

PRESIDENT AUNGIER and Council at BOMBAY
to
THE PRESIDENCY OF SURAT.

23rd October, 1673.

Your good opinion of Rajapore may encourage us as we see occasion to think of some settlement there against the next yeare and the rather for that Carwarr continues much disturbed and wee fear they are yet closer besieged then ever they were, for to this hower wee have not heard from them since the Revenge Frigott arrived there.

Collection of Papers received from India Office, 5, p. 76.

No. 5

23rd October, 1673.

The Siddee is quiet of late but wee heare hath writt abundance of base lies according to the custome against our proceedings with him, whereas wee have not done him the least injury but only secured ourselves from their violence and from famine by want of provisions, which they would have brought upon us, its probable those base lies which he hath wrote, may heat your furious Governor, but we confide much in your prudence to temporize with him, and the President desires that you would keep things as fair as you can untill you have gott all your Goods downe and if the Siddy doth not give us further mollestation here, wee shall give no occasion of disturbance from hence to him, though his people have committed great insolencys on the Island Patekas and this towne by stealing of cattle, and robbing and pressing the poor people

which as yet wee do not complaine of, but do not forget it; more at present we remember not, but kind salutes to you

Your Affectionate friends

Gera: Aungier
John Shaxton.

Surat Factory Diary, 5, pp. 83-4.

No. 6

23rd October, 1673.

Here in Bombay (blessed be God) we are very quiett but the Surat Fleete commanded by the Siddy formerly mentioned hath supressed and burnt several Townes on the Main belonging to Sevagee over against Bombay contrary to their solemne promise to us which hath cause some scarcity of Provisions and firewood on the Island and somewhat disturbed the poore merchants and which is worse the Sidye designs to build a Fort on a little Island in Negotann River just over against your Fort Bombay which if they doe will prove of very evill consequence to this island and therefore wee shall endeavour to prevent it what possibly wee can and for the present have thought good on this score to forbid the said Fleete or any boats or vessells belonging to them coming into this Port any more or furnishing themselves with provisions and were it not for the tender regard we have to your Honrs: Interest & Trade in Surat and Bengalla wee should take some other course to check the Sidyes evill designe for that we judge he is put on it on purpose, by advise from the Governor of Suratt to spoyll and hinder the growth of this your Port and Island Bombay and therefore we beseech you to give us speedy orders how we are to proceed in such cases, for it concerns you highly to vindicate your right in this Bay and not to permitt any men of warr to neastle themselves here to the prejudice of our Trade for the whole Bay is yours without dispute and though the Portuguesse possessing now Carinjah & Salsett do pretend a right therein and ought to hinder Sidye from building any Fort son neer them, yet they out of pure malice to the English permitt their settlement, knowing it will doe us great mischiefe, and wee considering the present circumstances of warr with the Dutch and your Trade in this King's dominions and haveing no positive order from your Honors: to make warr or breach of peace with any of our neighbours are forced to dissemble our grievances though never so much affronted but our chiefe checke is want of order or commission from you wherefore we beseech you againe and againe to consider the premises and to strengthen us with your wise Councell and orders how we are to act in cases of this nature.

Surat Factory Diary, 5, pp. 85-7.

No. 7

25th October, 1673.

The Councell receiving a letter yesterday from the President and his Councell at Bombay, bearing date the 17 current, adviseing of Side Sambole the Mogull's admirall passing the Port; and blocking up the river of Caranjah within the Bay, with an intention alsoe to build a Fort upon a little Island that is at the mouth of Caranjah Bay which would be of great prejudice to the Island depriving them of their trade and provisions for the Island, which already were very scarce and deare, by reason of his stopping their Commerce into those Rivers of Penn and Negatam; in Sevage's Countrys, from whence the Island ever had the greatest supplys; The case being thus our President desires the advice of his Councell here, it being of very weighty importe the Councell have deliberated thereon, and finding the case to consist of two parts viz. the safety and prosperity of the Island in its people and trade and the conservation of our Trade here, and in other parts of the Mogull's Territorys, or whether the Company's Concerne in their Island or in their present trade here is to be preferred; As to the Island we know that if the Side continue long to stop up those rivers the people cannot long subsist for want of provisions, and will desert the Island, which depopulation will loose the Incomes and Revenues, and soe be a great charge on the Honble Company in the maintenance of their garrison and other great charges there. The Hon'ble Company's trade in this Kings Dominions is not small it is of great consideration and ought by all means to be preserved, but yett if wee cannot maintain our Trade here, without the loss of our Island wee shall certainly be admitted Trade, when that is lost wee shall be subject to thousand insolencys.

Surat 25th October 1673.

Collection of Papers received from India Office, 5, pp. 90-1.

No. 8

31st October, 1673.

Siddy Sambole hath gained little honour or advantage by assaulting that parte of the maine over against us, and blocking up Negottan River, for he hath lost a great many men, and hath been cheated of his hopes for he had thought to bring that part of the country to contribution but Sevajee sent a considerable strength of about 3,000 men to defend the country against him so that now with shame he thinks of leaving the place, and faine would be friends with us againe and in respect of the present condition of our affaires, we shall neither totally disoblige him nor yet concerne ourselves much in assisting him but shall willingly afford him provisions to be sent to his Fleete abroad provided he will not trouble this Port, but doubtless he will trouble us for he knows not what to doe

nor where to goe and wee believe at last will turn pirate and the poore Country Merchants are already fearful thereof soe that we heartily wish wee had the Revenge and Hunter Friggotts here to convey Merchants Vessells whereby wee should gaine great reputation, and credit to the Island and in tyme persuade the Merchants to contribute towards the charge Now in regard it cannot otherwise be so long as the Siddy continues with his Fleete but that occasion of differences will frequently fall out betwixt us, and him, the President had thought good to write a letter to Mr. Thomas Roach in Agra giving him an account of this matter and desiring his assistance to vindicate against the false aspersions the Siddy hath all ready wrote and will write against us, if wee had any able Scrivan here whom wee could trust the President would write an Arzdasht to the King in the Persian language but having none who is capable or whom he dares trust he desires you would do it from thence or send him downe some able man that he may write from hence for it is fit the King be acquainted with his proceedings and what dishonour the Siddy brings upon the King in these parts and in possibilities of doing any good against Sevagee for the King is most grossly abused and fedd with lyes of great victorys whereas he hath done little or noe mischiefe to Sevagee hitherto nor is he capable of doing any but only plundering a few open villages to seaward, and burning a few Cajan houses, and taking some coumbines slaves, which is the worst he can doe and what Sevagee not at all values, but this doth not concerne us to write to the King for he must and will be cheated, but it concerns us to vindicate our own innocency from those lyes and calumnys which the Siddy casts upon us least the king should through misinformation pass some order to the prejudice or dishonour of the honble: Company's affaires, the President takes notice what you write touching a present to be given to the Siddy to persuade him to leave the Bay, but he noe wayes approves thereof for it would be of dangerous consequences, and would be expected as a yearly tribute, and therefore bring a great inconvenience, and loose the Company's right to the Bay, a better and safer way would be to make a present to Ghasty Chaun and desire his strict order to the Siddy that he doe not molest this Bay in the least but keepe a fair correspondence with us. But neither the one nor the other desires a present on this occasion.

Collection of Papers received from India Office, 5, pp. 94-5.

No. 9

11th May, 1674.

Mr. Henry Oxinden.

Wee reasonably presume that Sevagee will be much offended at the Sidys wintering his Fleete in this Bay, but when he hath understood what endeavours we have used to turne him out and how roughly we have

treated his men, the perticulars whereof you are to manifest unto him, having been witness of the transactions here, and when you have represented unto him and made him sensible of the indispensible ingagements that we have in the Mogull's Country by means of traide and setting of Factories in his Dominions, we doubt not but he will in his wisdom be fully satisfied of our integrity, and the full desire we have to keep a good understanding with him, and you may further declare, that he also hath vessels wintering here as they and we could not in reason and prudence deny the Sidy the same kindness, though it be very much against our will and inclination.

Collection of Papers received from India Office, 6, pp. 58-9.

No. 10

20th August, 1674.

May it please your Honrs

Our most humble services in all obedience presented &c

Sidy Sambole commander of the Surat Fleete, touching whome we have often wrote you, taking advantage of the dependence of your affairs in Suratt and other parts of his Kings Dominions, forced us much against our will to permit him to winter with his Fleete at Mazagaon during these raines, what trouble we had with him, the severall Overtures which passed and the tearmes on which he was admitted, you will read at large in our Consultation Books, being too tedious to be inserted here, wee doe the better beare the trouble, because the people of your Island* are not a little enriched by the money which he and his souldiers spend here.

Your Honrs most humble servants

Gera: Aungier
Jas: Adames
Stephen Ustick.

Bombay 20th August 1674.

Collection of Papers received from India Office, 6, p. 71.

No. 11

28th September, 1675.

As to the Fleete which is now bound to the reliefe of Danda Rajapore, you must not deny them all good neighbourly assistance, to wit, wood, water provisions, and necessarys for their mony; but you must declare unto the Generall that if he presume, or any of his people, to intrench on his Majestie's rights, and rob or plunder or in the least disturbe any boate or vessell from Henry Cunry and Chaul inwards into the Bay, or shall land any men to rob on any parte within said Bay, they doe actually

breake peace with us, and must expect noe assistance from us, and if you doe stoutly and resolutely maintaine this privilege, you will doe acceptable service to the Honble: Company.

Collection of Papers received from India Office, 6, p. 152.

No. 12

26th November, 1675.

Honourable,

The Mogull presseth hard upon him whose Army is come part downe to Culliam.............. The Siddy of Danda Rajapore being alsoe recruted from Suratt with 200 fresh men, provisions ammunition &ca: with two large men of warr, and several Friggats (after he had put some recruits on shore) sayled downe the Coast to look out Sevajees Fleete hopeing to burn them in Port, but being by their vigilence prevented of that they have burnt Vingurla, and severall other Townes. At this alarm Sevagees Fleete also put to Sea, consisting of 57 small Frigatts well manned, the East India Merchant who put in here yesterday in her voiage up from the Mallabar Coast mett with both Fleets; wee wish they may meet and box it out stoutly, for they are both equally troublesome to us, and much hinder the Trade of our Port, by this your Honors will see Sevajee hath his hands full, how he will deal with them all we must leave to time to discover.

Collection of Papers received from India Office, 7, pp. 2-3.

No. 13

Honble &c.

From Rajapore I lately received letters that advises of Nabut Bullellckaun's death who departed this life in a Castle whilst it was besieged by the Deccanies, not long before he closed up his eyes, hee put his two sons in the tuition of Serja Ckaun who gladly seemed to accept them, forgetting all differences formerly between him and theire Father, Soe soone as he was interred and newes thereof brought to Vijapore, Jemshett Ckaun delivered up the Castle and Cittye into the hands of Siddy Mussud who in Company with Serja Ckaun and Delil Ckaun the great Mogull's Generall intends to march against Sevagee with 80,000 horse with resolution to destroy him utterly. But tis too well knowne that Sevagee is a second Sertorious and comes not short of Hanniball for stratagems. And noe longer than this very day arrived newes from the Lascarr or Army...

Bombay the 14/24 of February, 1677/8.

Collection of Papers received from India Office, 7, pp. 75-6.

No. 14

22nd September, 1683.

Honourable &c Hond: Sirs,

The Mogull's Fleete lying soe long here with such a numerous quantity of men and the Siddy's Fleete constantly wintering with us doth exhaust all manner of provisions, that unless some speedy remedy be used to prevent their harbouring with us, our souldiers will never be able to live on their pay, having often made several complaints.

The 28th May last the Siddy's souldiers mett with two of our English men in the Bezar and most insolently sett upon them, whereof one, by name, Edward Harper two days after died; the other recovered, which caused our souldiers to be highly enraged thereat, and certainly would have caused much bloodshed if prudence and care had not prevented them; wee immediately made our demands for the murderer, but the Siddy refused to deliver him up and hath now conveyed him privately to Surat where wee hope the President will endeavour to have satisfaction with which to appease our souldiers.

Honourable Sirs,

Your Honours faithfull and obliged Servants

C. Ward
John Jesop
J. Burniston.

Bombay the 22nd September 1683.

Collection of Papers received from India Office, 8, pp. 100-1.

No. 15

10th April, 1684.

May it please your Honors.

Wee sent to the Siddy's Island that lyes in the chopps of the Bay 2 more men your Honrs. servants, such as wee might trust to continue there, and daily cruise out in Galvetts of the Siddy's, to prevent any of your ships by ignorance falling into the hands of those villains of Bombay. The Siddy promised all assistance to your servants and that he would serve us himselfe in this matter with all diligence and care............

Collection of Papers received from India Office, 10, p. 2.

No. 16

2nd July, 1684.

We understand wee have great warehouses......... a large house called East India house and noe profit at all to the Company but on the

contrarie the Siddee when he is there with the Mogulls fleet makes use of them to live in, and to Serve and fitt his rigging, which will make but a meanaiet for the great expences the Company hath been att in erecting such chargeable Edifies & therefore wee would desire you to spend some serious thoughts.................................

Public Department Diary. Letters from the Court of Directors, 1, p. 93.

No. 17

COPY OF BOMBAY GENERAL LETTER TO SURAT, DATED 13th NOVEMBER, 1686.

The iron gunns at present on hand, not having disposed of many occasioned by the great noise of the Siddees victory over the Savajee which puts a stop to the merchants traffique at present.

Sect. Outward Letter Book, 4, p. 187.

No. 18

COPY OF BOMBAY GENERAL LETTER TO SURAT, DATED 18th OCTOBER, 1686.

We send you this to acquaint you that we are credibly informed that the Siddee after his having had such success at Danda-Rajapore and other places is resolved to attack Candrey, which if he does will infallibly be resigned to him by treachery and may prove of ill consequence to this island. This wee think fit to advise your Excellency &c with praying your directions about it whether or no you think it fit to send a man to the Rajah to propose to him to give the said Candrey into our hands till he becomes one of his country and then to return it to him again, or any other proposal that you shall think fit which must be done speedily or not at all for certainly the Siddee will have it, Penn is certainly in danger of being lost.

Sect. Outward Letter Book, 4, p. 184.

No. 19

COPY OF BOMBAY GENERAL LETTER TO SURAT, DATED 6th OCTOBER, 1686.

The Siddee having taken some forts from Sumbajee Rajah and in one of them a very great gunn, the Siddees' officers residing here have been with our Deputy Governor to borrow four hallsors and two capstonnes and two large blocks to get the said gunn transported to some other stronger place but the Deputy Governor has put him off as yet saying he has none—he will avoid to do till he hears from you.

Sect. Outward Letter Book, 4, p. 182.

No. 20

To,

HIS EXCELLENCY &c & COUNCIL,

LETTER DATED 7th and 8th MARCH, 1686.

Last night here came a messenger from Siddee Cossim who brings news that the said Siddee had landed at Fettapore far by Rajahpore and that the Sombaji's party met him and killed four hundred of his people and the Siddee himself had received four wounds and escaped very narrowly of being killed or taken, he lost four of his gallivats. Wee thought to acquaint your Excellency.

It is said he is gone to Danda-Rajapore but yet we are not sure of.

Sect. Outward Letter Book, 4, p. 142.

No. 21

To,

HIS EXCELLENCY & COUNCIL,

LETTER DATED 27th FEBRUARY, 1686.

Siddy Cossim is come from Danda-Rajahpore to Undree and as we are informed he has besieged a small fort called Cullanee at the mouth of Nagan River and it is thought he will be master of it, if so he will cutt off all commerce from Cundree which island will fall into his hands of course, for want of provision, and with the event of it may be God only knows, this we thought to acquaint your Excellency of.

Sect. Outward Letter Book, 4, p. 137.

No. 22

To,

HIS EXCELLENCY & COUNCIL,

LETTER DATED 29th FEBRUARY, 1686.

This comes to acquaint your Excellency &c that yesterday we were certainly advised that Siddee Cossim who had besieged Cullanee had raised his siege and was gone for Rajapore in search of Sultan Egbert the Moghul's son so that wee hope he will not disturb our neighbours any more this year.

Sect. Outward Letter Book, 4, p. 138.

No. 23

10th February, 1688-9.

May it please your Honrs:

By a Generall Councill wee have kept all with some respect and have drawne up an address to the Moghull, it's copy is now sent, it goes by one of his Chellaties, that hath made large promises to us, wee shall take care he doe not much deceive us, and if he be as

good as his word may doe your Honours good service, harm you he cannot, wee shall see to that, and hope for the Almighty's blessing in all things, the Siddee's Fleet is now at Danda Rajapore, consisting as we are informed of about 11 ships and 70 small Vessells, your Generall wrote to the Siddy since he came hither to see how he was inclined, and to have an account of his actions, he sent a civill answer with proferrs to serve us what in him lay, it was immediately replyed to with seeming kindness; after that whether from our people's fear or really threats of the Siddy wee cannot learn yett, but many were forward to leave your Island with their whole familys, and largely and publickly it was talked that the Siddee within his whole Fleete and 8,000 men was resolved to come against us and to that purpose had made great preparations, on this it was thought fitt to write the Siddy wee had such a report here, and till we were better satisfied, if he stirred to sea with any of his vessells wee should look upon him as an Enemy and deale accordingly with him. This letter was sent the other day by a small boate of the island, and by a cunning trusty fellow, an answer to it wee may expect tomorrow or next day at furthest, in the meantime wee keep good looking out, have well quartered all our men, your ships lye ready and wee in a good posture of defence and offence; but wee are of the mind to forbear the Siddy if well wee may, till wee may see what may be done at Court, but if from thence wee have no good news wee think of nothing less now then goeing briskly to worke and letting the Mogull and all his hungry Courtiers know and feel the force of your Armes which they think but meanly of at present from the miscarriages in the Bay and the condescention of our friends there and att Fort St. George, it is true wee wish wee may not be drove to this last expedient and shall endeavour all in us lyes to prevent it, because of your Honrs. constitution and the Mogulls present greatness.........

J. Child &ca &ca.

Collection of Papers received from India Office, 12, pp. 34-5.

No. 24

7th June, 1689.

May it please your Honrs:

The imperfect Invoyce now sent your Honrs: could not possibly be helped being hoven into a great hurry upon the Siddys coming to your Island, and indeed for some few days there was that confusion, strange distraction and some of our people so possessed with dreads and fears that it is a shame to speak of it and indeed it was a great shame to see it. But now indeed all seem to have more courage than they had and in all appearance will stand firmly not only for the defence of your

Garrison but to regain what the enemy hath and beat him off the Island, and to effect it we shall not be wanting as becomes us.

John Childe &ca.

Bombay Castle June the 7th 1689.

Collection of Papers received from India Office, 12, p. 58.

No. 25

26th December, 1689.

May it please your Honrs:

Our most humble service in all most obedient manner presented &ca: Our last addresses to your Honrs: was under the 7th June last copy of both we now remit, we hope God of his Mercy will suddenly send your ships.........; wee have since their departure used all diligence and our utmost endeavours to beat the Enemy off the Island, but in vaine for he dayly encroaches upon us and is now very near us and builds strong batteries, soe that hourly shotts pass between both parties, not we thank God in the least to dismay us, and the Enemy is very sensible wee are not to be frighted, he has felt the Force of our Armes and finds that his numbers cannot conquer a handfull of us, but he has been soundly banged and killed abundance of his multitudes, but he as faste fills them up againe, whilst wee cannot repair our losses, which makes us the more sparing of our Countrymen, but when occasion occurs that if possible we may save your Garrison: Tis true wee must confess 'tis a great evill that our own Garrison souldiers should desert us and not only that but in actual Armes against us, and one of them is worse to us than 100 of the black enemies wee have killed a great many of them, but too many are still alive against us, For your Honrs: satisfaction wee now send the Depositions of one that ran lately from the Enemy to us, wee have had many come to us but none under the same circumstances that turned Mahometan, he is a young foolish fellow, and wee believe was more afraid than hurt which made him turne, but wee do not think the Enemy so base as to have killed him, besides they are under a dread that wee should certainly put to death all wee catch of theirs, and wee have now great many in Irons working in the Fort, and certainly should they doe that, for everyone of our Countrymen wee would sacrifice 100 of theirs, and truly it would put us into too great a passion to spare any that fell into our hands........

Bombay Castle
Decr. 26th 1689.

Geo. Cooke: J. Child &ca &ca.

Collection of Papers received from India Office, 12, pp. 62-3.

No. 26

28th April, 1690.

May it please your Honrs.

We moved soon after the receipt of the Phirmaund to have the Goosbadar sent downe to Bombay to send off the Siddy as is specified in our Agreement as per advices from Mr. Weldon &c ...... and then to turne away the Siddy, 2nd or that the Merchants should goe downe with the Eddy or any one of them and receive it all and be conveyed into the Portugueze Country or anywhere else out of our power and then to turne away the Siddy, 3rd or if they pleased all should be delivered into the Generall of Bussein's power and then to turne the Siddy away, but to our sorrows wee find all in vain nothing will serve him but that he must have some treasure brought up and delivered to the Merchants before the Eddy shall be sent downe and all the arguments imaginable cannot dissuade him as yet to the contrary, and on the other side the Siddy doth declare as by our last letters, from your Island that except the Eddy and order from the Governour doth not speedily arrive with him that then he will not be gon off your Island all the Raines, and being thus driven to such streights we thought it absolutely necessary to send downe for Charles the 2nds Treasure which is to be given up peace or warr to be sent us on your Yatch Josiah with all expedition which being delivered wee may reasonably hope that then he will not refuse to send downe the Eddy and that such orders to the Siddy that he may make, noe demurrs in goeing away the Siddy Phirmaund from the King for his going away is very positive so that we judge we may be rid of him ere the Raines and soe at present shall conclude this paragraph.

.........and turne off the Siddy upon which we had many large disputes and againe laid before him the Propositions here before mentioned and further then that we argued was impossible for us to doe, but nothing could be harkened to he was obstinate and would come to noe other termes but withall made many serious and solemn protestations that if we did what he required us to and bring up the Treasure, noe excuse whatsoever that the Siddy should make for his stay on the Island should prevaile but he should be gone and if it should be soe late that he could not goe off by sea yett he would certainly tun him off by Land by the way of Cullian; of which he very earnestly desired us to rest satisfied and not in the least doubt of it, at last we were forced to yield, and promise him to send up for said Treasure which had we not done we did see plainly before our eyes all your affaires just upon the brink of being utterly spoyled and ruined and the prospect we had that things would now come to an accomodation......... and tho' the greatest relyance we have for attaining our desires of haveing the Siddy turned off your Island is on our Governour's honesty

and word (which is as much as could be had) we doe look on it so......... suteable to our desires.........

Wee are just now informed from the Cozzy Ibrahim himselfe who is Vakkeel to the Siddy that the Governour ordered him to get himself ready to goe downe to Bombay with the Eddy tomorrow or next day but cannot believe it till we can see it.

Wee shall not be wanting according to our bounden dutys is useing our utmose endeavours to put all in the best manner we can be soe happy to be ridd of that unwelcome guest the Siddy and be pleased to consider how absolutely necessary it is necessary for your Honrs. Interest.

Your Honrs most humble & most obedient servants

Baro: Harris
J. Vauxe
Sam: Annesley
Benj: Aleyn.

Surratt April 28th 1690.

Collection of Papers received from India Office, 12, (1689-91), pp. 87-95.

No. 27

22nd June, 1690.

And now this day the Siddy being gone and Mazagaon in our possession we have posted Ensign Fitzgerald with 10 English 200 Hindus and 44 Christians for the defence of that place and Surrey Bay.

Worpll: Sir & Sirs,
Your most humble servants

Bombay Castle June
the 22nd 1690.

Geo: Cooke
Barker Hibbins.

No. 28

30th June, 1690.

O.C. 5717.

To the Worpll: George Cooke
Deputy Governour of Bombay
and
Mr. Barker Hibbins.

Your most acceptable letter of the 22nd passed by matters wee received the 29th ditto when Noor Mahmud and the Coolies arrived both which were wellcome tho' the Pattamar brought the joyfullest good news of the Siddy's being gone, God wee hope will keep such turbulent Enemys off the Island for the future and he has shewn us an example and taught us otherwise than to think ourselves secure when we are not therefore

hereafter wee ought to be the more vigilant and carefull and endeavour to strengthen ourselves on that Island what wee can it being conformable to our right Honble. Master's own orders.. you knowing better than wee can direct you what necessary to be done being on that place; and now wee must think of settling the Island in the best manner we are able at present therefore on receipt hereof wee would have you proclaim peace all up and downe the Island as publick as may be and afterwards we would have Baro. Harris proclaim Governour of Bombay &c....................................

30th June 1690.

Bar: Harris
Jno: Vauxe
Sam: Annesley
Geo: Weldon
Benj: Alleyn
D. Cornwall.

Collection of Papers received from India Office, 13, (1690-4), p. 7.

No. 29

30th June, 1690.

May it please your Honrs:

And now wee come with some what more raised spirits and cheerful minds to advise your Honrs. the good news of your grand Enemy the Siddy's being quite gone off your Island of Bombay as by coppys of Mr. Cooke's &ca. letter of the 22nd instant here enclosed and beseech the Almighty to keep your said Island from ever haveing such an Enemy thereon ever any more, but it will be highly requisite that theyre be some additionall Fortifications which 'twas a very great evill was not done before according to your soe often reiterated orders.........

The 24th past arrived with us George Weldon and Ab. Navarro from Court with 8 English prisoners which the King caused to be delivered them being carryed up thither by Siddy Kariah Caun from Danda Rajapore causeing them to endure very greavous misery and hardships, George Weldon &ca. does assure us that the King and Asset Caun his Duan are very much really favourably inclined towards us and what further reasonable demands wee have to request at their hands will be granted us and as a present Testimony thereof these men were delivered them and orders sent to Siddy Yacoatt Cann to doe the like with what other Prisoners he had, but wee cannot hitherto persuade him to, however these good inclinations of the King &ca. we shall use our utmost endeavours to cultivate what wee can and make it our studys to redress by degrees whatever wee can.................. and draw all the advantages wee can thereby for the

resettlement of your affaires which are now, God be praised, in a very hopefull way since that the Siddy is gone off your Island.

Your Honrs. most humble and most obedient servants

Baro: Harris
J. Vauxe
Sam: Annesley
G. Weldon
Benj: Alleyn
D. Cornwall.

Surratt 30th June 1690.

Collection of Papers received from India Office, 13, pp. 1-2.

No. 30

15th January, 1690-91.

May it please your Honrs.

The 22nd June 1690 Siddy Yaucoot Ckanne* departed your Island (leaving therein the marks of ruine and destruction soe deeply engraven as wee believe may require a good competency of tyme to wear out) upon which your Deputy Governor George Cooke went and took a review of the whole Island and because wee had bin basely dealt with, by many of the Inhabitants and more particularly by the Jesuits of Bandora who had given the Siddy great assistance all the lands in general were seized on for your Honrs. use, as well of those that were not, but with this intent that soe soon as the Agent should arrive from Surratt good for their greater encouragement should be publiquely restored to their Estates and on the other hand the bad for example to be degraded and loose theirs, but hitherto several affairs intervening that the Agent could not come down soe soon as expected this business has been suspended; but wee are given to understand that in a small time wee shall have orders how to act here in which wee question not will be just to them and honble on your side. .... there never had bin such a thing as the Siddy upon the Island, for the chiefest motives that induced him to come was the knowledge he had how unprovided wee were to receive him, for he never came by the King's order (as George Weldon can attest he had from good hands in the Court) but voluntarily of himselfe, esteeming the purchase of the place through our weakness would be very feazable, which he had gine a great way, but that several things happened to the crossing him of his purposes more through God Almighty's Providence (who would not suffer us to be swallowed up) than anything else, as in the first place Muctear Ckann, the Governor of Suratt who tho' a great Enemy to the English yet envieing the glory the Siddy would

have acquired by takeing the place where he would have been in a much advantageous Post than himselfe, this put him upon representing to the King the place was of farr greater strength than it really was and likewise made him hinder both reliefe and money coming to him, in the next Place, the Merchants fearing should the Siddy take the place they should never recover anything they had lost besides the ruining the Port of Suratt, this made them join with the aforesaid Governour in advising the King and other Umbraws in favour, how great a benefitt wee were to the country.

... ...

...The next thing that hindered the Siddy's encroaching upon us was an unexpected supply of souldiers coming to us from Sobajee Rajah and other places which if he had not arrived in tyme, little had wanted of being routed, but this made us stand our ground, after this Muctear Ckanne upon some great complaints that came against him is turned out and Ettinatt Ckanne from Ahmadavad comes down a very upright man, who being desirous to have the chief hand in making our peace joined with the Merchants in furthering it what he could, this occasioned some private conferences with the King in our behalf and the King referred it to Assett Ckanne and Rullah Ckanne to doe as they thought fitt, they wrote to Etmatt Ckanne and Meer Nezame that provided there came up 2 Englishmen to ask the King's pardon with a handsome present peace might be made, upon this at last there was two sent and things succeeded indifferently well altho' great interest was made to hinder it which did little availe, but what our enemies could not doe, wee had like to have done by some foolish actions (that at present shall be nameless) that had 2 or 3 times like to have knocked all in the head; now had it bin our fortunes to have bin so well provided as to have kept the Siddy from landing, our peace might then have bin far more honble, for your Honrs for both George Weldon & Abrm Navarro doth declare that during their treaty in the Court the greatest rub they found in their way was the getting the King to order the removal of Siddy which was a thing never known in this King's reign before; for it is a maxime that where once his Forces beleagured a place they either conquer or are beaten from it.

Collection of Papers received from India Office, 13, pp. 19-24.

No. 31

London the 13th May, 1691.

Our President and Councill at Surratt

With this you have copyes of what we wrote you by the Dorothy and now we are to answer yours of the 30th June last Overland and received here the 7th Instant.

The newes of the Syddees departure from our Island is as welcome to us as it was to you but as our Intentions were always sincerely for the common good of our Nation as well as of the Company So it hath pleased God to crown our endeavours with great success considering the multitude of false Englishmen treacherous forreign Christians and potent enemys we had to contest with We know the attempt in making warr upon that great Monarch the Mogull was very dangerous but it was just because it was necessary Bonum quia unicum. It was wise because there was no other way to save the English interest in India from being ruined by the Interlooping English and the extorting Moors Govers, who were instigated by them to deprive us of all our ancient priviledges But blessed be God all our agonizing is ended tho' not to the height of our expectations yet so much to our honour as hath amazed and confounded all our adversarys and is wonder'd at by forreign Europeans that knew the power and greatness of the Mogull.

Your very loving Friends

Samuel Dashwood &ca &ca.

Collection of Papers received from India Office, 13, p. 42.

No. 32

29th October, 1695.

Worpll: Samll: Annesley
President &ca: Councill.

.... but have received answer of our letter from Abdull Rara Ckanne, Muttabar Ckanne and the Siddy &ca: all professing the utmost friendship to us, Abdull Bara Ckanne hath sent us the Coppies of his letters to Court in our behalfe, and the Siddy hath sent us the coppy of his to the Governour of Surat, and the coppy of the Governour's to him, and just as our messenger was coming from their countrey one of the Siddy's brothers told him that he had just received news from Rajapore that 4 Pirates had been at Jettepre to take in water and provisions, where they were lavish enough in spending what they had so basely got in giving a doller for a hen and proportionable for what else they had occasion, these no doubt were the Sparks Captain Uther saw, and the same that has done the mischiefe on this Coast, ...

Your very loveing friends

John Gayer.

Bombay Castle the 29th October 1695.

Collection of Papers received from India Office, 15, pp. 1-2.

No. 33

30th October, 1695.

May it please your Excellency,

Some days since ten Grabs of the Siddee came hither from Danda Rajapore as usual at this time of the year, for corn &c provisions, they have yet brought nothing else, wee have daily intelligence of their actions, and shall not fail in our duty.

Sam: Annesley
E. Bendall.

Surat
October 30th 1695.

Collection of Papers received from India Office, 15, p. 67.

No. 34

8th November, 1695.

Rt: Worpll: Samll: Annesley
President &ca: Councill.

For us to make proposalls to defend the King's subjects from all Pyrates, is what wee think not fitt to engage in without orders, tho' he would allow the Company annually what he doth the Siddee; for it would certainly be an extraordinary charge, and after all wee should find that there would be a great delae to make satisfaction for yearly, and you nor wee cannot be ignorant of the land service the Siddee is obliged to as well as the Sea, in the former wee suppose he spends 4/5 more than in the latter, therefore considering our present incapacity to attempt such great enterprizes the Genll: is contented to serve our Masters in such a manner as circumstances will permit, without endeavouring after a Foorydarshipp.

Your very loving Friends

John Gayer
Wm: Aislabie
Ben: Stacey.

Bombay Castle
8th Novr: 1695.

Collection of Papers received from India Office, 15, pp. 7-8.

No. 35

12th November, 1695.

May it please your Excellency,

We have not been wanting to make the best inquiry we could what ammunition is provided for the Siddees Galvest wee advised

your Excellency lately came hither, and hitherto find no more ordered than what we are informed had yearly been done, 400 single mds: Powder and 200 great shott of several sorts, there being none of the latter sent last year.

We have procured the following clause of the Siddee's letter to the King translated from the Persian.

"O King of Kings the English are great merchants and drive a vast trade in your Country. Tis well for in these days John Gayer Generall for the English that leaves in Bombay does very good service to the subjects of your Majesty and that in every respect There are a great hat-men thieves in these Seas, but such busyness is not from the English cast noe ever will be."

This we write your Excellency believing by your letter you have not had it before and since you have received no letters from Court we give your Excellency the following account how the taking of the Gunsway has been resented there from the abstract of 3 letters, one from the Siddee's Vakkeel Dinmatray which we turned into English as near as we could from the Persian as follows.

THE SIDDEE'S VAKKEEL AT COURT TO HIS VAKKEEL AT SURAT

"The Letters from the Port of Surat arrived that the English had robbed the ship Gunsway from which news the King was very angry. An order was issued out that a Phirmaun should be sent to Siddee Yacood Canne to take Bombay and put the Englishmen in Surat in Irons and what money was plundered from the ship to be taken from them and restored to the Owners, in the juncture of which time the English Vakkeel was there and petitioned the King, that if it was his command, the Generall would come to Court and the Chief of Surat would come before him, and that the English for 100 Years past had drove a trade in his Country and never did any such thing. They are Merchants far better and to be preferred to all others, and honest dealers. The commands are gone out to write to Ettinut Ckanne to examine into these affairs, and what shall be found true he will humbly supplycate to his Majesty. The English Vakkeel behaved himself well and in such time the Princes Vakkeel had not talked so much to the King."

Your Excellency's most humble obedient servants

Surat
November 12th 1695.

Sam: Annesley
E. Bendall.

Collection of Papers received from India Office, 15, pp. 73-4.

No. 36

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 14th JANUARY, 1700.

The Siddies lately has had several hot skirmishes with the Marathas who are very strong having about 8000 horses and 12000 foot, as reported at Marr. &c and adjacent places to Danda-Rajapore, burning several villages and doing considerable damage to each other. The Siddie having blocked up by sea the entrances to Cannagee Angra's Castle, he being then abroad with his Palvett's took his opportunity whilst the Siddy was thus employed to the Southward to come to Thull and lay it waste with other places and continues in these parts plundering and carrying away with botty and people he meets with; he had with him about 10 Palvetts—the Marathas have demanded half the revenues of Muttabar Caune's jurisdiction, which he at first withstood—but at last granted them 1/3. So he at present sits in quiet; the person we keep at Danda-Rajapore advises us that Sr Nichol Watts hath sent an express to the Siddy desiring that the ships may have liberty to take in at his port wood and water and that other provisions they may want and for one or more of his people to reside there on that account; the Siddy made answer that his Fort was free to any and if that their ships came and anchored at the usual place without for all strangers and sent the boats ashores they should be supplied with what the places afforded but for any of his people to reside there he could not grant it.

Sect. Outward Letter Book, 7, pp. 110-1.

No. 37

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 28th FEBRUARY, 1700.

Some days before we had good news of your Excellencie's releasement; the Siddies came himself with large ships and not knowing his designs wee thought fit not to go about altering the Briggantine, but keep our small crafts in a readiness for designees of the Island, making all other necessary preparations, not knowing but their Nichol might have procured orders from the Court for the Siddies to make a descent there on having sufficiently experienced, his illegal, base and malicious proceedings against our R H M and that he leaves no stone unturned to effect it but we now believe the violences of their storms is blown over and we are the Briggantines according to your Excellencies Order and will be ready to receive your commands before these arrives you, it is reported the Siddie is resolved to take the former places, tho' we are apt to believe its only a (*torn*) of his, and yet the business will be made between them; here being one from the Hovaldar of Cundry who told the Deputy Govr. much the same purpose.

As it hath been customary, the Siddies come so near us to send a present to him and more specially at this time as our circumstances are we have concluded to send him one or about two hundred rupees, which we hope may meet your Ex. approval.

Sect. Outward Letter Book, 7, p. 128.

No. 38

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 6th MARCH, 1700.

The Siddies lie full before Caulaby and Cundry and tho' hath so great forces yet the Marathas find a way to go with their galvett from one place to the other; as likewise to go out a robbing they have lately taken a shybar or two belonging to the island, and a Worlee ffishingboates wee keep out the smack and two Munchwas to prevent such degredations but the sly Oars were taken further from the island than our vessels were ordered to cruize, and these merchants sending their vessels out singly not caring to pay and go in a fleet to their island Convoy, it is impossible almost but yet they had meet with Roo.

The Siddies had lately sent us an angry letter falsely taxing us with assisting his enemies the Marathas with Bevd, ball, &c and necessaries, wee have returned answer and laid before him the falceness of such accusations having seen his late differences with them not admitted any of their that hath come into our road to stay but turned them away without caring anything from hences, as his own people here, if they does us justices can testify these letters with answer to our's sent him by Dorabab 4 days since, which we expect to-day.

Sect. Outward Letter Book, 7, p. 132.

No. 39

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 2nd APRIL, 1701.

There is not yet right understanding at present between the Siddies and Sevajee's as thought having had a skirmish of late where the former as reported hath had a considerable loss tho' by his letters to us goes herewith giving an account of the Action pretends the contrary, he has been very urgent with us to send a surgeon to dress his wounded men, saying he would bear all charges and look on it as a great favour done to the King his Masts Doct Thompson preferring his service we consented to his going who desired we would spare the Hospital for 2 or 3 days, In case he should have occasion to make any amputations and if there was nose to be got here that knew how to assist him that Doct Skinnr

might not complain of our ordering any of his assistants away when needed.

The Siddies at present seem to be very well satisfied and it shall not be our fault if any difference happen for wee seek to keep fair with all, that will do with us.

The Siddie still continues his siege, without doing any great matters at Culaby, wee shall be watchful of Shivajee and others, who may presume to attempt anything on our Island to give them a warmer welcome.

Sect. Outward Letter Book, 7, pp. 140 and 143.

No. 40

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 13th SEPTEMBER, 1728.

The Substance of Mr. Dickinson's Representation is as follows. That it was some days after his Arrivall at Mocho before he coud get Admittance to the Govr. when he deliver'd the President & Mr. Cowan's Letters Address to Shaik Amir the late Govr. & Desir'd he wou'd Introduce him to Siddy Ismael the Imauns Son who was then there in Order to Treat with him about the Honble Companys Trade & Priviledges at that Port which he promis'd to do in a Day or Two, but it was the 7th May before Sciddy Ismael wou'd be seen, when he waited on him & after the usuall Compliments were over represented to him the Hardships & Grievances the Company had for some Time Labour'd under, which Induced them at last to withdraw their Factory & send thither the last season to recover by Force what they had a long time Endeavoure'd to no Purpose by Fair Means to Obtain but at the same time to shew their Good Inclinations to serve the Ismaum, the President, & Council of Bombay had sent Three Vessells of Warr at no small Expence to rescue his Ship out of the Hands of the Portugueze & the Mallabar Pyrates & brought her in safety to Mocha, That hearing the Imaum was quietly settled in his Kingdom the President and Councill had sent him (Mr. Dickinson) thither to make Tryall of his good Disposition towards our Nation & According to the Encouragement should be given him to reestablish our Trade or Entirely withdraw it. The consequence of the latter he represented wou'd be the loss of the Surat Trade which is the greatest Branch of the Imaums Revenues, for was it not for our Cruizers Guarding the Mallabar Coast & keeping in Angria & the other Pickaroons, no Surat or other Ships durst venture out & of Consequence the Imaum would have no Customs, & but a few days before the Bombay Galley had in her Passage rescued the Fuzzaramanee a Surat Ship Bound thither from the Sanganians which (had she sav'd her Passage) wou'd have got the Imaum Twenty Thousd. Dollars by the Customs on her Cargoe. That for all these Benefitts the

Honble Company did hope for some suitable returns & Expected the Imaum wou'd grant them an Authentick Phirmaund under his Hand & Seal renewing our Priviledges & Protecting us in our Trade from any Innovations of His Govrs, or Agents, which being Granted the Honble Company wou'd be again Encouraged to send their Ships to Purchase Coffee & Extend their Trade in his Country Siddy Ismael Promis'd hereupon he would use his interest with his Father to get what we Desir'd & Mr. Dickinson Delivered his in writing the severall Articles the Honble Company Expect shou'd be Inserted in the Phirmaund as they are Enter'd at large in his Diary under the 15th May, but it was not long before he found little was to be depended on Siddy Ismaels Promises for on the 1st of June he sent Mr. Dickinson Word that he had not forwarded the Letter to his Father & Advis'd him to send a Present along with it, That being the Surat Method to Obtain what he desir'd. Mr. Dickinson return'd answer that he cou'd not Give a Present first but if the Ismaum Granted any Favours he would not be ungratefull & wou'd also make him (Sciddy Ismael) some—Acknowledgement for his Assistance in this Affair, but he cou'd not learn whether or no it was afterwards sent, tho' he Believes the Govr. disswaded him from it, That on the 9th June news was brought that Siddy Hoosan had taken One of Mahomet Even Saaks Brothers, his Generall & Chief Officers Prisoners whereupon most of the other Towns Surrender'd & in a very short Time after he was Master of the whole Kingdom except Mocho to Besiege which he had sent an Army who after staying some Time at Moza came before the Town the 19th July......... The 12th July being Informed that some of the Prince Fredricks (torn) was stopt upon the Road Mr. Dickinson wrote to the Imaums Brothers Siddy Hamet Desiring he wou'd Give Orders to the Govt. of Beetlefuckee & all the Places on the Road not to Impede the bringing it down as it wou'd be of the greatest Ill Consequence to the Honble Companys Affairs at that late Season of the Year. .... for on the 9th Siddy Esmael sent to the Generall Deserving a Cessation of Arms for Eight Days at the Expiration of which, if in the Interim he did not receive any succors from his Father he was to deliver up the Town The Army before it consists of Four Thousand Foot & Fifty Horse who cou'd easily have made themselves masters of it, but the Generall had strict Orders from Sciddy Hoosan to take care that none of the Merchants were Plunder'd upon Pain of Loosing his Head therefore he chose not to take it by Storm so that the Country is now likely in a Short Time to be settled in Tranquillity & on this prospect Mr. Dickinson wrote the Imaum a Letter to the same Purport of that he gave Sciddy Ismael as aforemention'd...........

Public Department Diary, 3A, pp. 170-5.

No. 41

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 12th NOVEMBER, 1728.

RECEIVED a Letter from the Chief & Factors at Surat Dated the 15th Instant Owning the Recet of ours of the 28th Ulto. & Advising that the 3rd in the Evening as the Govrs Brother was going to the Castle seven or Eight of the Scydee's People meeting him Disputed the way with his Sepoys whereupon they quarrel'd & Two of the Scydee's Men were killed which being reported to Scidee Umber Vackeel he order'd out a Party of Men with the Comr. of the Sciddee's Forces Sciddee Illmoss who Seiz'd on the Inner Gate of the City that leads to the Dutch Bunder & was proceeding to the Durbar but some of the Govrs. Officers & Sepoys making head against them they Kill'd Ten or Twelve of the Sciddee's People amongst whom was their Comr. Siddy Illmoss when they retreated & left the Gate again to the Govrs. People. That the Vackeel had hereupon Dispatched Two Gallivats with an Accot. thereof to the Sciddee whose People were throwing up Intrenchments to secure themselves untill they reced Orders from the Great Sciddee.—

Public Department Diary, 3A, pp. 223-4.

No. 42

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 16th NOVEMBER, 1728.

THIS afternoon received a Letter from the Chief and Factors at Surat Dated the 8th Instant sent express to advise of a sharp Engagement that happened the Day before between the Govr: and the Siddees Forces which fell out in the following manner,—The Govr: Tage Beeg Caun and Siddee Umber having agreed to stand to the Arbitration of Shaik Eslam Caun and others for the Decision of the Siddee's Demands, It was awarded that the former should Pay one Hundred and Forty thousand Rupees whereupon the Govr: sent a Message to Siddee Umber, Desiring him as he had now no further Business in the City to depart out of the outer Walls but Siddee Umber made light of the Message and having before seized and secured Umbra Gate and the Gate that lets out to the French Garden he made an entranchment from the former down to his Bunder by Ahmud Chellabys Garden, and having erected a Battery mounted about six Guns thereon being resolved to wait the great Siddees answer about the late skirmish that happened the 3rd Instant and stand upon his own Defence. Tage Beg Caun understanding this and not knowing how the great Siddee might resent Matters upon the Report of his Vakeel Siddee Umber and thereupon send more Forces to Insult that City and also considering that the said Vakeel having the

Command of Two Gates might let in the Geenims join him; RESOLD: to attack Siddee before they made any addition to their strength and accordingly the 7th Instant, the Governors Forces marched out commanded by the Fouzdar Miam Dien Syad and Golam Mahmud the Governor Nephew and about One Oclock at Noon approached the Siddees when there began a very sharp Engagement between them the Governours People from the Castle and Ships and the Siddees from their Gallivats and Battery keeping a Continuall Fire upon each other during the whole Action which lasted till Twelve Oclock at Night when the Siddees wanting Ammunition and being pressed with fresh Supplys of men from the City were drove from their Intrenchment with great Precipitation and betaking themselves to their Boats went down the River leaving their Ship and some Disabled Gallivats behind them except a Party of about hundred and fifty Men who (*torn*) reported went off with Siddee Umber overland to Domuss just before or after his Forces were defeated. Great numbers were killed and wounded on Both the sides the Dutch Bunder and Fiscals House almost Torn to Pieces and most of the Houses Burnt that were situated between That and the French Garden.

Public Department Diary, 3A, pp. 241-2.

No. 43

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 27th DECEMBER, 1728.

THIS Morning Reced: a Letter from the Chief and Factors at Surat advising that the Differences between the Siddees People and that Government was now entirely made an end of by the Interposition of Mahmud Ally and that the Govr: had given Siddee Umber and the Two Head Officers each a Sirpaw and the former was returned to his House in the City,

Public Department Diary, 3A, p. 279.

No. 44

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 7th JUNE, 1733.

The President acquaints the Board that he desired this meeting to communicate to them that on the Resolution that has lately happened in the Scidy Country by the Sou Rajah's Forces in conjunction with those of Angria taking several of the Scidys Forts & the Country adjacent, & more particularly on their getting possession of all his Fleet, he wrote Mr. Henry Lowther Chief at Surat to sound Teg Beg Caun the present Govr. of that place, & endeavour to learn his opinion on the present posture of Affairs, & to sound him if by this means a Phirmaund could be obtain'd from Court granting a Jageer to the Ho. Company for protecting

the Trade of Surat & this Coast, since the Scidy to whom an Annual Jaggeer of three Lack of Rupees has been hitherto paid for that purpose, is now no longer in a condition to protect them, & the Common Enemy by the addition of the Scidys fleet is become more formidable than ever: To which Mr. Lowther return'd for answer in a formal Letter, that he believed such a thing might be brought about, & he wou'd take the most effectual method to Accomplish it.

AND now he the President had reced a Letter from him under date 26th Ultimo the Contents of what related to this Affair was read to the Board, importing that the 24th of the same month the Govr. Teg Beg Caun sent for Mr. Lowther & of his own accord propos'd to him, that since the Scidy had lost the greatest part of his country wth. his whole Fleet, & was thereby no longer in a Condition of protecting the Trade of this Coast against Pyrates & Pickaroons, he was no longer entituled to the Jageer that was Annually paid him by the Court out of the Surat Customs on that Account, & as we are most capable of any Power whatever in these parts to undertake that Affair, if we were willing he wou'd endeavour by means of his Patron Candaura at Court to obtain for us a Phirmaund for a certain sum to be paid us annually.

To whom the Chief return'd for Answer, that he was oblig'd to him for the good Opinion he had of the English Nation, & for his good Intentions towards us, that Indeed the Ho. Company had hitherto been the only Protectors of the Trade of Surat & of these Seas, & that the Scidy had never the least contributed towards it, notwithstanding the Annual Jageer that was paid him out of the Surat Customs for that purpose, which had put the Ho. Company to so great an expence yt. they were become weary of it & inclined to lessen it by making a Peace with the Sons of Angria, who had lately offer'd them very advantageous terms, & as a token of their Sincerity had taken from us without Ransome; but however if he the Govr. could obtain from Court an Annual Jageer adequate to the Charges we shou'd be at in Protecting the Trade he believ'd we might be perswaded to come into his measures & put a stop to the Treaty of Peace that was now on Foot with Angria & desired he might have leave to communicate to the Govr. of Bombay what had passed between them, & receive his Instructions how to act in this Affair, which the Surat Govr. approved of.

Public Department Diary, 6A, pp. 1-3.

No. 45

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 7th JUNE, 1733.

..... when there is no longer any prospect of the Scidy Family being ever again able to make any figure at Sea, since the Maurattas & Angria

are in possession of their whole Fleet & as little can they hereafter claim the Jageer formerly paid them in consideration of their keeping up a Fleet to Protect the Trade, the only use of which was when the Scidy was in possession of it, once a Year to go to Surat Bar demand & enforce the payment of the said Jageer from the Surat Government without ever minding the Trade.—

Public Department Diary, 6A, p. 4.

No. 46

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 7th JUNE, 1733.

THE main point will be what Sum to insist upon, the Scidy had three Lack of Rupees allow'd him by the Mogul, tho. we know that the whole sum was never paid him by the Surat Govrs, tho. they charg'd it as paid in their Accots. with the King, but when this Jageer of three Lack was allow'd the Scidy, Angria & the other Petty Pyrates on the Coast were of little consequence to what they are now, & a small force by Sea was sufficient to oppose them, whereas the two Angrias (with the addition of the Scidy's whole Fleet of Grabs & Gallivats to those that they had of their own before) are become very formidable, & will require a considerable Marine Force to Suppose Suppress them or prevent their depredations on the Sea & consequently occasion much greater expence than ever the Scidy was at with his Fleet, wch. was seldom fitted out but once a Year & that only for two Months in the fairest Season.

Public Department Diary, 6A, pp. 4-5.

No. 47

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 12th JUNE, 1733.

To

The Honble Robt. Cowan Esqr.

Honble Sir,

My last Respects to your Honr on the Subject of the Scidys affairs were dated the 26th Ultimo & the 27th, I reced your Commands of the 17th, wch is chiefly answer'd in my last, as I have not heard anything from the Govr since our Conference of the 21st Ultimo.

The 29th Scidy Mossoot came and made me a long visit who has orders to entertain wt. Soldiers he can hire in order to furnish the Forts to the Southward that are yet in their possession, & he is in expectation that as

soon as the season will permit, the English, Portugueze & Moors at Cannanore & other Places to the Southward will join to assist his Master in recovering his Country but this his Listing of Soldiers has alarm'd Teg Beg Caun & the Govr of Castle, who have sent to me to speak to the Scidy about it, being fearful that in case the Maurattas shou'd drive the Young Scidy & his people out of their Country, that they will join Scidy Belal, who is now at Jaffeirabad with about One thousand Men & Vessels sufficient to transport them, & if at the same time Scidy Mosoot shou'd have raised a number of men here, they apprehend some disturbance to this Port, wch I look upon as an unnecessary fear, for I am certain no ill Consequence can happen from Scidy Mosoot, who is without money, & therefore cannot carry on so great an Undertaking, nor Wou'd (I dare venture to say) think of such a thing without first communicating his intentions to me and taking my Advice.—

Public Department Diary, 6, p. 14.

No. 48

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 14th JUNE, 1733.

Wrote the following Answr. to the foregoing
To
HENRY LOWTHER ESQR.

SIR

YOUR Letter of the 1st Instant to the President is now before us; as to what Scidy Mosoot told you at the long Visit he made you, 'tis all a Chimdra, how can he expect that the English & Portugueze shou'd join the few disanimated Troops remaining to the Scidy to regain his Country from the Maurattas wth. whom both Nations are at Peace, when the Scidy stood by an indifferent Spectator on Sundry Occasions that both English & Portugueze attempted to suppress Angria who has been the Chief Contriver & Instrument in depriving him of his Country.

The Govr. of Surat's apprehensions that the Scidy joining wth. Hodje Belal at Jaffeirabad may give any disturbance to your Port are as ill ground, nor can Scidy Mosoot raise or maintain many men without money & 'twill be difficult to convey any to him from the Fort of Rajahporee while Angria's Gallivats cutt off all Communication wth. that Fort by Sea, & they have no Vessels at Rajahporee to transport five hundred Men were they so inclin'd, Angria being entirely posses'd of all their Fleet both Grabs & Gallivats.

Public Department Diary, 6, pp. 18-9.

No. 49

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 14th JUNE, 1733.

We are just now inform'd that the Strong Fort of Rairee is deliver'd up to Badjee Row, if so, all the others (which are but four) remaining under the Scidys Command must soon Share the same fate, & of what Passes we shall from time to time advise you, but we are desirous of improving as much as in our power the present Occasion for the honour & advantage of our Employers, to which nothing can more contribute than obtaining the Jageer we now Sollicite, & every thing seems to Combine for our Success, Go on therefore & you shall punctually be supported by

SIR

Your Affectt: Friends and Servants

PARELL
14th June 1733.

Robert Cowan
John Horne.

Public Department Diary, 6, p. 21.

No. 50

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 12th JULY, 1733.

THE 23d Scidy Mosoot sent me Misure or Memorial to the King Sign'd by all the Merchants, representing the treacherous delivering of his Masters Country & Fleet to the Sou Rajah & Angria, & in the strongest Colours setting forth Angria's Power at Sea, the danger the General Trade of India & the Mahomedan Religion is in, by this formidable Alliance of the Maurattas with Angria, & therefore request his Majesty will think of some measures of assisting the Scidy with Forces, & particularly by an Advantageous & positive Order to Teg Beg Caun to assist them with every thing, as well as the continuing his Tanka, which it seems is the word we ought to have used instead of Jageer, which is used for the Grant of the Revenues of a Town or some Villages with their Dependencies.

WHICH Memorial the Scidy desires me to Sign & Affix the Companys seal thereto but on the present Occasion & considering our Views I excused myself, alledging it to be contrary to our Custom, & that without a positive Order from Bombay I Cou'd not do it which wou'd take up too much time, his Business requiring Expedition.

I Talked to them (Teg Beg Caun & Golam Mahmud) about the Scidys Memorial which gives them great satisfaction as facilitating their future

& the Govr. says the Scidys Tanka is continued to be charg'd & perhaps he may obtain an Order to have it paid him, which he shall not comply with, 'till his own representation be heard at Court, & wch. will undoubtedly take place, for the King and the Ministers are so ignorant of the Constitutions & Interests of Places so far distant from them...........

I NOW come to answer your Commands to me of the 14th Instant.

I LOOK'D upon Scidy Mosoots Tale as a Chimdra & shou'd have told him as much at that time but as the Misfortunes of the Unhappy ought not be agravated; I rather sooth'd ym. by wishing it might be so. As to Teg Beg Caun's fears of Scidy Belal he is convinc'd of what I then told him, that they were unnecessary.—

Honble Sir & Sirs

SURAT
26th June 1733.

Your most Obedient & most
faithfull hum. Servt.

Henry Lowther.

Public Department Diary, 6, pp. 30, 32 and 33.

No. 51

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 16th JULY, 1733.

.........(Cursindass Vakeel)......& opinion that no other method can be taken to Stop Angrias Ambition but the putting the Scidys Post And Tanka into the hands of the English, & that therefore the sooner a Grant was obtain'd the better, to wch. the govr. & his Brothers assented wth. all the Assurances of their utmost endeavours to obtain it.........

NOTWITHSTANDING what I wrote the Ho. the President the 26th Ultimo about three Lack being allow'd by the King to the Scidy, upon a stricken enquiry into things since this Negotiation, wch. before were foreign to my business I find that the King only allows a sum not exceeding two Lack to the Scidy, & that when Government was not farmed, the Govrs. sometimes compounded for less, and took the Scidys Vakeel recet for the Sum compounded, only reserving to themselves a deduction of two percent; which Informations I procur'd from some Servians of former Duans & the Scidys Vakeels, & is now conform'd to me by Teg Beg Caun; who also observ'd that an Augmentation of two Lack to a force already form'd, wou'd enable us if vigorously pursued in a short time or few Years to curb the Enemy so much, that half the Expence hereafter wou'd suffice, & then a large profitt wou'd accrue to the Company from the Punctual payement of the Tanka at this Port, therefore as the Govr. greatly insisted that the Success depends upon being satisfied with the

two Lacks, I consented to his Solliciting for no more than that sum, nor to accept of less.........

I AM with the greatest regard
HONBLE SIR & SIR
Your most Obedt. & most
faithfull humble Servt.

SURAT
the 29th June 1733.

Henry Lowther.

Public Department Diary, 6, pp. 34 and 36.

No. 52

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 19th JULY, 1733.

RECED the following Letter from HENRY LOWTHER ESQR.

To,
THE HON. ROBERT COWAN ESQR.
PRESIDT. & GOVR. OF BOMBAY &CA.
AND JOHN HORNE ESQR.

HON. SIR & SIR

The 7th Instant I reced a letter from the Bengall Vakeel at Dilly enclosing a copy of a Letter from the King to the Honble the President recommending his assisting the Sciddees with forces to regain his Country, which I sent to the Governour for his perusal, & the 9th express Pattamars with the originals and others to the same purpose to the Vice Roy of Goa & General of the North & also one for the Sciddee, which Teg Beg Caun destroyed alledging that if Sciddee Mossoot once had possession of it, he will be daily importuning them for money & us for men to assist his master.

I am with the greatest Deference & Respect.
Hon. SIR & SIR
Your most Obedient &
most humble Servt.

SURAT
July the 10th 1733.

Henry Lowther.

Public Department Diary, 6, p. 47.

No. 53

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 11th. JULY, 1733.

DIRECTED that Captain Robert Macneale be sent to the assistance of Lieutenant Inchbird, whose knowledge of the language & Customs of the Country People renders him the fittest person to treat and transact

any Affairs with them, and as we have had a long experience of his capacity prudence & fidelity AGREED that Lieutenant Inchbird be directed to consult him on all occasions and that he do not undertake any thing of moment without his advice & approbation.-

Adjourned.-

Robt: Cowan
John Horne
Geo: Taylor
John Bradyll
Geo: Percival
W. H. Draper
J. Lambton
Henry Kellett.

Public Department Diary, 5A, p. 235.

No. 54

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 13th JULY, 1733.

LETTER FROM SURAT.

THE PRESIDENT observes to the Board the great progress that the Sou Rajahs forces being joined with those of Angria have made in the reduction of the Sceedys Country their obedience since the death of Nabob Yaucoob Caun which is more owing to the dissention of the Sceedys Officers than the force of their Arms however it is certain that they have gotten into their possession the town of Rajahporee & a sort of fortress called the Cocree with all the Sceedys fleet of Grabs & Gallivats their Guns & warlike Stores and nothing but the Fort upon the Island in that harbour holds out against them.-

THE Strong Fort of Rairee formerly the Chief residence of the Savjee Rajah & others the Predecessours of the present Sou Rajah has in like manner has fallen into their hands through treachery & *as* we have certain intelligence that another separate body of the Sou Rajah forces are ordered to march against Anjenwell & two other of the Sceedys forts to the Southward & but a few days since Angria has taken the fort of upper Choul belongg. to the Portugueeze he has likewise taken the small fort of Ravanee in the River of Peen & the larger Fort of Thull scituated on the western point of the south land that forme one side of this bay and contiguous to the Island & Fort of Underee which place he is like wise preparing to attack as soon as the weather will permit him to make use of his Gallivatts for that purpose, & if he should succeed in that attempt he is entirely master of the south entrance of his Port when it will be impossible for any small embarkations or Ships of little force bound to

this Port to Escape his Gallivatts & consequently an end put to the greatest part of our Country trade, as all the Sceedys Grabs and Gallivatts are given to Succojee Angria for his share of the plunder of Rajahporee & he has carried them to Colabbee to join the rest of his fleet which now consists of Eleven Grabs & twenty five gallivatts besides four Grab & twenty Gallivatts under the direction of his brother Sambojee at Gerah.

Upon this emergency wee have been frequently solicited by the Siddee's officers for assistance and succours both from Rajahpore and Anjerwell but more immediately from Underee nearest in our neighbourhood but to grant the necessary assistance to all these it is not in our power both from the weakness of our garrison and the great distance of the places were there no other political reasons for preventing our so far interfering but the consequences of Underees falling into the enemies possession claim our more immediate attention as that will more sensibly effect both with respect to the trade of this port and the procuring of the provision for the use of the Island.

These considerations being pondered and debated on it is unanimous opinion of this board that in duty to our Honourable Employers we are indispensable obliged to use our utmost endeavours to prevent the Island and fortress of Underri falling into the enemy's hands by succouring same and preserving it either in the possession of the Siddee or taking into the possession of our Hon. Master by the Siddies consent on condition that the heirs or the successors of the late Siddie Yaucoob Caun should be restored to country command and authority and should desire the restitution of the fortress of Underee the same shall be delivered up to them on paying the full expense and charge that the Honourable Company may be in preserving the said fortress with the usual interest thereon at the rate of nine per cent per annum but should the Marathas take possession of the Siddies territories without any hopes of retrieving them that then the Fortress of Underee shall remain to the Honourable Company as their sole right and property.

Agreed that the said succours to be sent at present do consist of one Lieutenant, two Ensigns, four Sergeants and 4 Corporals, forty European Musquetuers, and sixty topasses, six nine pounders, six six pounders, sixty barrels of powder, one hundred spare musquettes and sundry other stores as the—that entered after consultation.

That Lieutenant James Inchbird have the command of the detachment and chief direction of this expedition with Ensign James Sterling and Ensign Forbes to his assistance to whom the President is to give the necessary instructions and in them particularly inculcate that before any of the artillery or ammunition is landed he is to take an exact survey of the Fortress of Underee and its fortification from which he may be able to frame a judgment, whether or no the same is capable of being defended

against any attempts that may be made by the enemy through the succours that we may be able to give but if he finds that it is not tenable either through the deficiency or irregularity of its fortification or its too near situation to the mainland on which the enemy may erect batterys sufficient to make a practicable breach in the body of the place, he is not in such case to land any of the artillery or stores before he has made a regular report to the President of the condition or state he finds the place in and receive his answer thereupon.

Public Department Diary, 5, pp. 148-9.

No. 55

CAPTAIN JAMES INCHBIRD

SIR

YOU are hereby appointed Commander in Chief of the expedition designed for Succouring & defending of the fortress of Undery against the Common Enemy with Ensign James Sterling & Henry Forbess to your Assistance together with four Serjeants four Corporals forty European musketeers Sixty Topasses & a train of artillery provision & Warlike Stores according to the list herewith delivered you.—

Accordingly you are to Sail with the first opportunity of wind & weather with the Gallivatts & other Vessels under Convoy of the Mary Captain Thomas Holden Comr. who has orders to bring the said ship to an Anchor as near to the Island of Undery as he can with safety the better to cover your landing on the said Island with the said Gallivatts & other Vessels & to secure your so doing from any attempts that may be made by the Enemy from their Gallivatts or from the main, as soon therefore as the said Ship comes to an Anchor if the tide will permit you, You are to proceed with the Gallivatts & Boats under your Command to the usual & most commodious landing place on the said Island taking directions therein from the Sceedys People & Boats that accompany you as they are best acquainted with place, but if upon the Marys anchoring the tide is too far spent that you cant securely reach the said Island you are to come to an Anchor with the Gallivatts & Vessels under the Guns of the said Ship & there wait until a proper opportunity of wind & tide offers for your proceeding to the said Island.—

I doubt not but the Ship Mary will be able to proceed so far to the Southward as to discover whether any of the enemys Gallivatts are lying at Cundry or not & with the assistance of the four Companys fighting Gallivatts to protect you from their attempts if there shou'd be any of preventing your landing as you are above directed.—

YOU are to embark yourself & detachment on board the four Companys

Gallivats & to accomodate them in the best manner you can & upon your arrival at Underee you are to secure the Vessels & People as well as you can from any random shott—may be sent by the Enemy from Thull or any batterys they may be Erected on the Main & then landing yourself with Captain Macneale whom you are upon all occasions to consult in this undertaking as person perfectly well acquainted with the scituation of the Place & disposition of the People as well as disposition of the Enemy & leaving the care of the detachment Artillery & ammunition to the two Ensigns you are to go to the Fort & deliver my letter to Sceedy Belal the Kellidar or Governour which will acquaint him with the design of your coming & the Service you are sent on.—

YOU are next before you condescend to land either your detachment Artillery or Stores to make a thorough survey examination of the Island & its fortifications, the number of the Guns therein their qualitys & the carriages they are mounted in the quantity of Provisons Water & Warlike Stores & the number of fighting Seepoys so as to be able to frame a perfect judgement whether or not with the succours you now carry & I may hereafter be able to send to you the same is capable of being defended from any attempt that the Enemy may make against it in which you are particularly to consider the distance it is from the Main land of Thull & the Effect that any Batterys raised thereon might have against the Fort of Undery likewise the depth of water on all sides & how near the Enemys Grab may approach it so as to batter it by their prow or side Guns in such manner as a practicable breach may be Effected but more especially you are to consider how the Main Gateway or Entrance is secure & whether or no there is any place upon the Island where the Enemy may land a body of men sufficient & draw them up so as to make a regular attack without being exposed to the fire of the Artillery from the Fort so as to frustrate their attempt from the best information we have hitherto been able to learn there it is not sufficient depth of water for their Grabs to approach near enough so as to do any execution without being at the same time exposed to our Gallys & boats which they must always expect to watch their motions.—

IF you find that with the assistance you now carry & what hereafter I may be able to send you the place tenable you are then to land your detachment provisons & ammuniton, but if you find that the Artillery that is already in the Fort & the Carriages to mount it on may by the assistance of the Carpenters & Smiths that we now send with you be render'd sufficient for the defence of the place there will be then no occasion for landing the Artillery we now send with you or at least only such part of it as you & Captain Macneal shall judge absolutely necessary.—

YOU are next to send off in the nine Gallivatts belonging to the Island & such other boats as you can spare to send hither with the utmost expedi-

tion all the Women & Children Old Men & other persons unfitt for service under Convoy of the Companys four Gallivatts who under cover of the Mary may see them safely so far in their way to this Port as to be out of the Danger & then the four Companys Gallivatts may return to you for your further orders.—

IF at one trip the nine Gallivats & your boats cannot transport the whole of the unnecessary People you may order them back to make a second trip so as to clear the Garrison of every thing but such a number of men as may be sufficient for it's defence which I compute Five hundred Effective fighting men must be at all events.—

In my letter to Sceedy Belal I have signified to him as my opinion that on the present Emergency it will be for his interest & that of the Sceedy his master to hoist the English flag upon his Fort & deliver up to you the defence of it with his assistance & that of his present Garrison with this condition that whenever the Sceedy thinks proper to demand the restitution of it to him on his Affairs taking a different him, than what they seem at present to promise the same shall be delivered up on the Sceedys paying the Honble Company the expence & Charge they have been & may be at in preserving of it with the usual lawful intt. of nine p. cent p. Annum but in case that the Sceedys Affairs will not admit of reclaiming the said Fort that then the same shall remain to the Honble Company as their Sole right & property & the Garrison of Seepoys shall become the subjects of the said Honble Company & remain in their pay & Service at the usual pay that is now paid to the Garrison Seepoys of Bombay.—

The hoisting of the English flagg & the taking of the Island & fortress of Undery into the Honble Companys immediate protection & defence will convince the Enemy that we are fully determined to defend it, & support it to the last which I flatter myself that Sceedy Balal & all honest Mussellmen will prefer to the giving it up to the Marattas on their specious but most false promises & that we have other motive in making this proposal but to give a Check to the growing insolence of that treacherous sett of people as I shall be much better pleased to see the Sceedys family & his heirs restord to their antient authority & command in this neighbourhood & in restoring to them the said Island & fortress than being at the expence of entertaining it on the Honble Companys Account without any other prospect of advantage than that of keeping it out of the common Enemys hands.—

But if on your taking a survey of the Island you find it impracticable with the Succours you now carry & what you are capable of judging we may be hereafter be able to send you to defend either through the deficiency of the fortifications the contiguity of its scituation to the main land of Thull & the Batterys the Enemy may raise thereon against it, or

the repugnancy of Sceedy Balal & his people to the conditions under which I propose to give them the present assistance You are then to forbear either landing of your detachment—Provisions or Stores untill you have made a report to one of the condition & circumstances you find the place in & wait my answer their but if my expectations are answer'd as I have no room to doubt but they must You are then to expedite as much as possible the putting the—in a proper posture of defence & sending hither all the unnecessary people compleating the number of the Garrison to what you may think sufficient of fighting men on so doing you may acquaint Capt.——of the Mary that there is no further occasion of continuing in his Station but that he may return with his Ship into the Bombay Harbour.—

THE Charge of the provisions you are to put—the care of some Serjeant or some person of trust & that of the ammunition & Warlike Stores under another with the assistance of two Lascars what are best versed in those Affairs & each of them are to keep a regular Book of Receipts & Issues of each specie to be laid before me as often as required.—

ANTONIO DE MELL goes with you as Chief Gunner whom I have advanced to the pay of a Quarter Gunner for his encouragement, & if he exerts himself with as much Zeal & fidelity as I know he has capacity in that Employment I doubt not but he will deserve it.

IF at the first & second trip of the boats with the Women & Children they can't send off the whole number you may send the remainder on board the Mary when she proceeds to this Port whose Comrs. has orders for receiving them and treating them in the best possible manner he can.—

MR. KELLETT has sent you six bullocks for your Europeans with which you must make the best shift you can till we can send you more but I wou'd have you inculcate to them to eat rice & Cutcharee which is more nourishing & wholesome than any flesh meat that can possibly be procured at this wet Season & When fair weather set's in we can supply you from time to time both with fresh & salt provisions as you may have occasion but I believe when you are once settled you will not want more than twenty Europeans & you may return the remainder hither. One thing I must put you in mind of which is to set about making more tanks for Water as many at least as will contain sufficient for all the fair Season for you are no longer to depend on your having any Water from Thull as formerly & to send it from hence will be very troublesome so that it will be much more easy & less expencive to make tanks to contain a sufficient quantity of Water for your Garrison the year round.—

In the foregoing part of these instructions I have ordered you not to land your detachment & Artillery untill you & Captain Macneale had talk'd with Sciddee Balal but in case you find that the Enemy fire upon your boats & People from Thull side & are like to do them any damage you

may land your people as soon as you can or as it is now Moon light I believe it will be safest going it in the night time the Sciddees people that go along with you are sufficient Pillotts to carry you in either by night or day.—

SHOU'D Sciddee Balal of his own accord propose to you his coming hither to discourse with me you may agree to it but you are not to propose this to him from yourself.—

I have talked with Antonio de Mell & he assures me that the Walls of the Fort are very good & that it is not possible for the Enemy to do them any damage from Thull neither is it practicable to bring any Grabs or other Vessels capable of carrying a sufficient weight of metal............since their firing against you can be of very little consequence.—

I am almost apprehensive that the Sciddees People will be very dilatory in transporting their Wives & familys & occasion the Mary to tarry longer in her Station than I care for at this Season of the year so that you must expedite them as much as possible I wou'd only have you keep such a number of Seepoys in Garrison as you think will be absolutely requisite. I believe you'd find the fort is not so large as it has been described & that three hundred men will be sufficient however that I leave entirely to your discretion. I commit you to the divine Protection & am

BOMBAY
The 14th July 1733.

Your Loving Friend
Robert Cowan.

Public Department Diary, 5A, pp. 252-60.

No. 56

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 17th JULY, 1733.

.........the Tanka to be paid them may amount to two lacks besides the disputes this affair may engage them into with the Sou Rajah who as he seems to be bent on conquering all the Sciddees Country may likewise claim his post of the Mogull's Admirall & the payment of the said Tanka to him & to back to his pretensions may equip a larger fleet than we shall be able to contend with......... if the present Sou Rajah should emulate his Ancestors in his naval forces as of late years he has outdone them at land he will prove too formidable for us to withstand, whereas by making a peace with Angria we may prevent the Sciddees & his fleet falling into the Rajahs hands, as if Angria has a peace with us he will pay but a slender Obedience to the Rajahs commands.........

By the Letter in Persian sent to the President it appears to us that an order from Court directed to the President & another of the like tenour directed to the Vice Roy requiring us to join our forces & restore the Sciddee to his territorys is upon the road this indeed demonstrates the

unreasonableness and ignorance of the ministry and how little they are acquainted with the situation of Affairs at any distance from Court, if we had it in our power as we have it not to do what they require when is the obligation on us to put ourselves to such an expence as such an expedition must cost.........

On the whole the great progress of the Sou Rajahs Arms & the views he seems to have of making himself master of the Scidys Country & all his sea ports will render him very formidable at sea as well as by land for we do not suppose that he will permit Angria to continue long in the command of the fleet but give that to some of his Officers in whom he has greater confidence...........

We are
Your Affectionate friends & Servants.—

PARELL,
The 17th July 1733.

Robert Cowan
John Horne.

Public Department Diary, 6, pp. 42-5.

No. 57

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 26th JULY, 1733.

OUR troublesome neighbour Angria having since the revolution lately happen'd in the Sceedys territorys & the taking Rajahporee with all the Sceedys fleet of Grabs & Gallivatts added five of the said grabs & Several of the Gallivatts to his own fleet, & having certain intelligence that he is preparing & fitting out his own fleet for the sea as soon as the fair Season will permitt him to cruize, it behoves us to take all prudent measures for the security of this Settlement, & protecting of the trade of this port, and as the present number of Vessels of War belonging to our Honble Masters are not sufficient to oppose the United force of the two brothers sons of Angria and perform the other services that are daily required of them we ought to think how to reinforce our fleet, and the Proprietors of the Rose Galley some time since taken by the Enemy having repurchased that Vessel for the sum of Rupees Seven thousand six hundred and three it is proposed to the consideration of the Board whether or no she is a proper Vessel to be added to our fleet if the Proprietors will part with her at the price she has cost them.—

DEBATING THEREON it is the unanimous opinion of this board that she is a Vessel very fitt for that purpose being strong & well built a prime Sailor & three years old And that we ought not to let slip this opportunity of adding such a reinforcement to our fleet if she can be had upon these terms.—

DIRECTED that the Marine Paymaster treat with the said Proprietors for the said Vessel & make a report to this board what he does therein.—

THE PRESIDENT acquaints the board that pursuant to our resolution of the 13th Instant the Mary Captain Holden Comr. weigh'd Anchor the 15th of this month & stood towards the Island of Underee with four of the Honble Companys fighting Gallivatts & under their Convoy six Tannah boats with the detachment Artillery &ca Stores sent to the succour of that Island where the Gallivatts & boats happily arrived that evening but the Mary was obliged to come to an Anchor five miles distance the Comr. not esteeming it safe this season of the year to approach nearer.—

Upon their arrival captain Inchbird and Captain Macneal according to the Presidents instructions to Captain Inchbird as entered hereafter went to the Kellidar Sceedy Balal and delivered to him the Presidents letter & acquainted him with the occasion of their coming & the succours they had brought & after having taken a survey of the Fort which they esteemed tenable, they proposed to the Kellidar the hoisting the English flag to which they believed the enemy would pay a greater regard than to that of the Sceedy which the Kellidar agreing to the English flag was accordingly hoisted the 16th in the morning under the discharge of the artillery of the Fort & the Gallivatts When the Enemy from Cundery & their Batterys from Thull began and continued to fire pretty briskly at the fort of Underee for that and the several following days but without doing any damage, On the 19th the Gallivatts and the Boats returned with several Familys of Weomen & Children from Underee & the weather having proved very boisterous for two days before the Mary being no longer of any use where she lay the Comr. slipt his cable not being able to purchase this Anchor and come into Port.

The President likewise acquaints the Board that he had received a letter from the Emperors Secretary of State Shum Shamud Dolla formerly known by the name of Caun Daun requiring him in his Majestys name to assist the Sceedy in a conjunction with the Portugueeze in recovering his Territorys that have been lately overrun by the Sou Rajah & Angrias forces, to which he return for answer that of his Majesty would defray the whole Expence of such undertaking and send his Royal Army we should be glad to act in concert them or such other forces as may be procured from the Portugueze for restoring the Sceedy to his dominions but that as our bussiness in these Parts of the world is trade & not to increase our Charges we keep up such number of troops only as are capable of defending & protecting our commerce, without interfereing with the too frequent quarrels of the neighbouring powers.

Public Department Diary, 5A, pp. 243-6.

No. 58

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 10th AUGUST, 1733.

Read a letter from the Chief & Factors at Surat under date 28th Ulto. as p. Extract preceeding this Consultation.—

THE PRESIDENT acquaints the board that three days since arrived a Gallivat express from Anjenwell with a letter from Sceedy Soot wherein he makes pressing instances for succours of men Artillery ammunition & other warlike Stores against Seerpaut Row who with a body of Marauttas & some troops of Angria under the command of Ragounaut Harry has invaded the territorys of the Sceedy in that jurisdiction & had taken one of the three forts under the command of Sceedy Soot so that only remains Anjenwell & the Fort of Govall he strenously requests that the said succours be sent him with all expedition under the convoy of four of our vessels of War and in Company with the said letter he sends one from Nisel Mel Muluck commonly known by the name of Checkless Caun who stiles himself Generalissimo of the Victorious troops of the most Potent & magnificent Emperour Mahmet Shaw,—

TAKING these letters into consideration & debating thereon it is the unanimous opinion of this board if we had it in our Power to grant the succours desired by Sceedy Soot as we had not especially that part of them five hundred Musqueteers, It is not possible to send them with the brevity & expedition he requires under Convoy of our Honble Masters Vessels of War at this tempestuous season of the year, and it is to be apprehended that before the Monsoon breaks up Sceedy Soot if not succour'd will be obliged to surrender the forts of Anjenwell & Govall to the Enemy if they are not better provided & most vigorously defended than the other fortresses belonging to the Sceedy which have already shared that fate.—

RESOLVED that the President return an answer to Sceedy Soots Letter in the following terms, that as the succours he requires must be transported by seas it is impossible to attempt any thing of that kind untill the fair season sets in & that even than we cannot spare him the Five hundred musqueteers that he desires though we may the Artillery & ammunition & other warlike Stores as we are very desirous of giving him and the Kings fortresses under his command all the assistance in our power against the common Enemy.—

Public Department Diary, 5B, pp. 267-9.

No. 59

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 5th AUGUST, 1733.

We are not surprized at the haughty stile of Angrias letter & proposal to Chellaby 'twas what we expected & all wonder'd that we had not sooner heard of such a proposal being made from him or rather from Bajeerow as it was natural to suppose it would be made by the one or the other when they gave the Scidees Fleet into their possession, as we always understood that the Tanka was paid the Sciddee for the maintenance of the fleet & not for the support of Rairee as in one of your former Letters you insinuated but we can no otherways account for Bajeerows giving up this pretention to Angria but because the Latter is more conversant in maritime Affairs than the former he left the management of the fleets to him on condition of his paying him one half of the Tanka when received.—

The use we would have you make of Angrias demanding it is that should the Sciddees Agents at Court or at Surat take amiss our solliciting for the Kings grant in favourable of the Honble Company you may plead that had we not obtained it Angria would & we think they ought to be better pleas'd at our having it who are their friends then that it should fall into the hands of their inveterate & profess'd enemy.—

Political Department Diary, 6A, pp. 69-70.

No. 60

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 26th AUGUST, 1733.

The Tanka of two Lacks was granted for the support of his fleet, besides which the King allowed him three lacks annually for the maintaining his garrisons of Rairee &ca. which has been taken off for several years, & considering his services he as little deserved to have his fleet maintained.—

The Sciddee is now driven to the last extremity & has but a few forts remaining to keep which he has sollicited the Honble the Presidents help in a very strenous manner which could it be conviniently done I doubt not but you would readily consent thereto, as the having such a Barrier between us & the enemy is a great defence to the Island & a grievous thorn in their side: but considering the few people we have it can hardly be done unless the assistance of a few soldiers & ammunition can enable them to maintain their forts against the land forces whilst our fleets keep the seas open & hinder the enemy from annoying them on that side, then

it may be hoped that Bajeerow dispairing of reducing them entirely may be inclined to make a peace with the Sciddee & content himself with the conquest of part of his country, that his forces may be drawn off & employed on other services that seem to be in agitation for it is the general opinion here that the Sou Rajah intends to make incursions towards Dilly & raise large contributions in those Country.

Now can this be effected & considering the disperate case of the Sciddees I cannot see why on account of necessary and timely an aid he should not make over to the Honble Company all his right and title to the Tanka which unless we have must inevitably fall into the enemys hands. This being once authentickely obtained from the Sciddee I dare say I can with the assistance of the body of Merchants oblige Teg Beg Caun to put us in Possession of the Tanka at a much less expence than our present agreement is for and have the same more easily confirm'd from Court.—

I am with great respect.—
HON. SIR & SIR
Your most obedient & most obliged humble Servt.

SURAT
August 22d. 1733.

Henry Lowther.

Public Department Diary, 6, pp. 71-3.

No. 61

TRANSLATION of a writing to be given the Monarch of Indostan on behalf of the English United East India Company on obtaining from the Governour of Surat Teg Beg Caun the Tanka formerly allowed Scidee Yaucoob Caun deceased.

We Robert Cowan General of the Forts of Bombay & Henry Lowther Chief of the English Factory at Surat Subordinate to Bbay do by these presents on behalf of the English Company declare and promise THAT WHEREAS formerly the defence of the Seas and Chastisement of it's robbers was delivered to the care of Scidee Yaucoob Caun Governour of the Castle & Territorys of Rajahporee, who by his Vessels of War cruizing on the seas took care that the Merchants might without fear or loss send their Vessels on voyages to different parts, & whereas the said Scidee Yaucoob Caun is deceased, the Guard of the seas is disconcerted, for that notorious Pirate Angria already famous by his fleets has made an Alliance with that Villain Bajeerow & took all the Vessels & warlike Stores belonging to the deced Scidee And therefore the Protector of the world the Monarch of Indostan has given since the decease if the said Scidee, the service of Chastising all Parties & robbers on the sea to the English

Company and for maintaining the charge thereof has given a yearly sallary of two lacks of Rupees out of the Royal Treasury of Surat IN CONSIDERATION of which we do oblige ourselves to equip out fleets of Vessels of War well fitted with all kind of warlike Stores & manner with Europeans enured to maritime Affairs, & also by the assistance of God & the Kings good fortune to give such orders that no Pyracies be committed on the Seas & that Merchants may carry on their commerce with safety, and should any of their Ships which God forbid may fall into their hands we will by the assistance of God & the Kings formidable name recover them for the owners and also drive them out that notorious robber Angria from his possessions by sea & land.........

Public Department Diary, 6, pp. 75-6.

No. 62

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 27th AUGUST, 1733.

We have just now by the Shark Gallivat reced your letter of the 22d. Instant with a copy of the writing or obligation in Persian & its translate in English, which Teg Beg Caun requires you to sign to be sent to the Moguls Court which upon examination we find to be couch'd in too General and implicit terms, which afterwards may be wrested to a meaning highly dangerous to our Honble Mas. Affairs, therein it is said that whereas formerly the defence of the Sea's & chastisement of it's robbers was delivered to the care of the Sciddee Yaucoob Caun who by his Vessels of War cruizing on the seas took care that the Merchants without fear or loss might send their Vessels on voyages to different parts this you know is a palpable falsity for the Sciddee never sent any such Vessels on voyages to cruize nor prevented the losses of the Surat & other Merchants Ships at least for these twenty years during which period sundry Ships & Vessels belonging to Surat and other Ports have been taken by Angria or other Pyrates, without the Sciddee giving himself any concern about them or being at any time required to make satisfaction for such losses & therefore that we should be answerable for any such as the writing or obligation required of you to sign seems to insinuate is highly unreasonable but that such an insinuation is emplied is pretty plain from these words namely that we shall be obliged to fitt out such fleets or Vessels of War & give such Orders that no Pyracies be committed on their commerce with safety.........

Public Department Diary, 6, pp. 77-8.

No. 63

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 7th SEPTEMBER, 1733.

The PRESIDENT acquaints the board that he has received a letter sent by a messanger from the Sou Rajah seting forth that the Sceedys of Rajahpore have at several times by force & arms possessed themselves of several Ports & countrys belonging to his Ancestors & that to regain them he had sent an Army commanded by Futtison & Badgeerow who had taken several of the said Forts & places & closely besieged the fortress on the Island of Rajahpore Harbour desiring him the President that in case the Sceedy should request any succours or assistance from him that he may not grant him any in consideration of the friendship & good correspondence that subsists betwixt this Government & the Sou Rajah.

To which the President has returned answer, acknowledgeing the friendship & good correspondence that do's & has subsisted for many years with the Sou Rajah & his ancestors & that the same good correspondence & friendship has subsisted betwixt this Government & the Sceedys of Rajahpore as subjects & Officers of the Emperor of Industan but notwithstanding the pretended friendship of the Sou Rajah, it is evident that for twenty years past he has permitted Angria who stiles himself his subjects & SERVANT to act as an open & professed Enemy to this Government committing the most barefaced Pyracies & depredations on the Sea against all English subjects following their lawfull trade & Commerce to the great prejudice & loss of this Settlement.—

That before the receipt of the said Rajahs letter he the President had received an Usbel Hookham or order from the Emperor of Industan under the Seal of his Principal Secretary of State requiring him to give all aid & assistance to the Sceedy of Rajahpore in recovering the sundry forts & territorys lately taken from him by the troops of the Sou Rajah.—

The President further acquaints the board that he has received sundry letters as well from the Sceedy who commands in the fortress upon the Island of Rajahpore Harbour as from Sceedy Saud Governour of Anjenwell & Govall requesting succours against any further attempts of the Maurattas on the said fortresses & desires the opinion & concurrence of this board how we shall proceed & what answer we shall give.—

TAKING the same into consideration it appears to us pretty plainly that it is the design of the Sou Rajah to make himself master of all the Sea Ports & fortresses formerly possessed by the Sceedy in which if he succeeds it will be a great addition of power to him & render him formidable neighbour & should he follow the same maxims & practices that he has permitted his subject Angria to follow for these twenty years past, the Trade of this Settlement & all this coast will be in eminent danger,

especiall considering he will have in his power the Sceedys whole fleet of Grabs & Gallivatts added to those of Angria & therefore it is the unanimous opinion of this board that it is for the interest & Reputation of our Honble Masters to prevent as much as in our power lays further progress of the Sou Rajahs troops in getting possession of the Sea Ports on this Coast that do & did formerly belong to the Sceedy and that in order thereto we grant the Sceedy what assistance & countenance we can in defending the Ports & fortresses they remain in Possession of.—

AGREED that we send the four Cruizers now ready in the road with such of the Sceedys Gallivatts as are at Underee & this Port to Rajahpore & Anjenwell to countenance the Sceedys Affairs & that we send Captain Inchbird & Captain Macneal to concert with the commanding Officers of those places the necessary measures for their defence and future proceedings.—

AGREED also that we send on board the said cruizers such artillery & ammunition as sciddee Saud Indented for that in case the said Gentlemen Catn. Inchbird & Captain Macneale on a survey to be by them made of the Forts on the Island & Anjenwell shou'd find them capable of a defence with the said Artillery and ammunition they may land them otherwise bring them back.—

Public Department Diary, 5B, pp. 304-7.

No. 64

BOMBAY CASTLE.........SEPTEMBER, 1733.

I had this morning a visit from Sciddee Mossoot who flatters himself with the assistance of Nursammulluck but when I told him that he could have but little hopes from him, if he duly considered his Alliance & friendship with Bajeerow, he confess'd it was true, & had some reason to believe that he first stirr'd up the Marattas against his Country men, being for a long time at variance with Sciddee Yaucoob Caun who had never wrote to him for some years before his death,

He also told me that his Vakeel at Court had sollicited the King for fifty seven Lack of Rupees to enable them to regain that part of their territories that is lost, but that Teg Beg Cauns Vakeel had by false representations of their being ever able to regain their country almost overset his sollicitations for they have only obtained an order for three Lack of which his Vakeel has only received fifty thousand Rupees & an order of Teg Beg Caun for one hundred thousand more, & as for the remainder he dispairs of ever getting it. He has demanded of Teg Beg Caun One lack pursuant to this order, but cannot get one Rupee from

him, nor will he be ever able to do it, so that all their hopes now center in your assistance.—

SURAT
Septr. 12th 1733.

Henry Lowther.

Public Department Diary, 6A, pp. 109-10.

No. 65

BOMBAY CASTLE...........SEPTEMBER, 1733.

We have reason to believe that Teg Beg Caun had in view the utter extirpation of the Sciddees & on that Account pretended to make us an Offer of the Tanka formerly paid them more than to serve the publick or out of regard to us judging that if the Sciddees had been entirely suppress'd he wou'd have been freed from their annual importunities & wou'd soon have framed some pretence to have taken the Tanka from us, or why did he insist so strenously on our signing so unreasonable a Paper as that of his drawing up & sent us down, But we believe the Honble Company will find it more their advantage to assist the Sciddees in recovering of their territories & trusting to their friendship than to depend on Teg Beg Cauns integrity or of any other future Governour of Surat as the Sciddees must hereafter for their own security & interest always unite with us against Angria as well as giving a check to the insolencies and oppressions of the Surat Government shou'd there be occasion.

BOMBAY CASTLE
The 5th October 1733.

Robert Cowan
John Horne.

Public Department Diary, 6A, p. 112.

No. 66

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 12th OCTOBER, 1733.

CAPTN. JAMES INCHBIRD & Captain Robert Macneale deliver in a Diary of their transaction at Rajahpore & Anjenwell on their going thither with the fleet pursuant to the President Instructions to them under date the 17th Septr. which is read & DIRECTED that a fair copy of the same be taken together with the Presidents instructions to be sent home by the first opportunity to our Honble Masters & that in the interim the contents be kept Secret.

Public Department Diary, 5B, p. 352.

No. 67

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 23rd NOVEMBER, 1733.

THE PRESIDENT represents to the Board that eight days since arrived here Scidy Saud with fifteen Gallivatts & Two Grabs from Anjenwell & Rajahporee & at the same time arrived from Surat Sciddee Mossoot with fifteen Gallivatts three Ships & a Grab, & as they say fourteen hundred men, in his way to Rajahporee with these two principal Officers of the Sciddee the President & Mr. Horne have had several conferences & Consultations on the present scituation of affairs & sundry proposals have been made from the one side & the other for establishing tranquility & restoring the Territorys taken from the Sciddee by the united forces of the Sou Rajah & Angria.—

THE PRESIDENT has likewise received letters from the Sou Rajah & Bajee Row his General desiring him to interpose as a mediator for accomodating the present differences, he is likewise inform'd that a Person authorized by the Sou Rajah named Annad Row & another from the grand vizier Nisil mulmulluck commonly called Chickless Caun are now at Rajahporee to treat of are—accomodation, on which Sciddy Saud & Sciddy Mossoot have requested that a person or persons authorized from hence may repair thither to act as mediators of the said accomodation & afterwards treat with the Sciddy's about an alliance against Angria & for the mutual defence of this & their Government against all invaders (Europeans excepted).—

TAKING the same into consideration It is the unanimous opinion of this board that such an Alliance if it can be brought about will be the most probable means of distressing Angria as hitherto the Sciddys conniving at or rather countenancing him in his depredations has been the principal cause why we have not hitherto been able to reduce him.—

TIS THEREFORE AGREED that we send to Rajahporee Messrs Henry Lowther & Francis Dickinson with proper instructions to treat of & negotiate these Affairs and they are accordingly ordered to get themselves ready as soon as they can.—

Public Department Diary, 5B, pp. 391-2.

No. 68

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 18th JANUARY, 1733-4.

Capt. James Inchbird delivers an Account of his and Captain Macneal's Expenses in treating with and assisting the Siddies amounting to

Rs. 335-4 reas. Directed that the treasury discharge the same &c and that it be put to the Head of the charges Extraordinary in assisting the Siddees.

Public Department Diary, 7A, p. 20.

No. 69

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 13th SEPTEMBER, 1734.

Fifty-two prisoners taken by the Siddies brought here.

The President also acquaints us that yesterday arrived from Underee fifty-two prisoners who were taken in an expedition the Sciddees lately made up the River of Penha, without his knowledge or consent, contrary to the Articles of Agreement between us, and observes that a great many merchants come hither by the said River from the Gaut country who carry away considerable quantitys of goods, and he apprehended if such violences are continued it will deter the Merchants from venturing hither to the no small detriment of our Trade, And therefore to convince the said Merchants that we do not approve of such proceedings and are inclinable to prevent them. He proposes to return the Prisoners to their inhabitants which is unanimously Agreed to.

Public Department Diary, 7B, p. 242.

No. 70

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 13th SEPTEMBER, 1734.

Storekeepers A/c of Stores supplied the Sciddees with.

The Storekeeper gives in an Account of Stores supplied the Sciddees with from August 1733 to the last of July 1734 amounting to Rs. eleven thousand nine hundred and sixty nine and eighty one reas. DIRECTED that he be Credited for them on the General Books by the Head of Charges in assisting the Sciddee.

Public Department Diary, 7B, p. 242.

No. 71

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 6th DECEMBER, 1734.

Sciddee Mussoot requests some money & stores.

Sciddee Mussoot represents that the people belonging to his ships have for some time been very uneasy for want of their Pay and requests we would advance him money to discharge the Arrears due to them without which he apprehends they will all desert him and likewise desires a

few Guns and other stores for the use of his fleet.—As we have already been at a considerable expence in assisting the Sciddees to prevent the danger that wou'd attend this Settlement from their country falling into the hands of the Sou Rajah or Angria, in which case we shou'd be obliged to make a very large addition to our Force and consequently to our charges. We think it but prudent to endeavour to prevent so great an evil by continuing our assistance to the Sciddees, which Expence we have a prospect of being repaid out of the Money they may recover from the Surat Government if by our means they can maintain that part of their Country now in their possession. And therefore Resolved that we let Sciddee Mussoot have five thousand Rupees in Money and the Stores he desires for the use of his Fleet.

Public Department Diary, 7B, p. 346.

No. 72

Bom. Ca. JANUARY, 1734-5.

The President acquaints the Board that himself with several of the members having had sundry conferences with Sciddee Saut since his arrival on the state of the Sciddees affairs and the Subject of the Tanka, He will by no means listen to any proposals for relinquishing the least part of it, but seems very much dissatisfied at our endeavouring to get it from them urging that it is all they have to depend upon for the support of their country. He also represented the ill state of their Affairs being very poor and indebted to their Soldiers and People, and destitute of all manner of Stores and Ammunition and if we do not continue our Assistance to them they have no hopes left of helping their Country out of the hands of Sou Rajah.—That they intend to proceed to Surat Bar with their fleet for recovering the money due from the Government, out of which he promises to pay us what they are already indebted, and for the further assistance we shall afford them.

We are too well convinced of the truth of what Sciddee Saut sets forth in regard to their poverty and the danger of their Country and we greatly apprehend that if we deny them our Assistance at this time they may be disgusted as to strike up a peace with the Sou Rajah by submitting to his yoke /which is the evil we have been hitherto guarding against/ and thereby we should not only loose what they owe us but they wou'd become our enemies in conjunction with the Sou Rajah & Angria.— Shou'd not this immediately be the consequence We are certain they wou'd proceed with their force to plunder the country bordering on Penn river which wou'd entirely put a stop to the Trade carried on thither from this Island.—On the other hand we have good reason to believe that (*torn*) a large sum from the Surat Govr & that upon their fleet appearing at the Bar our

Chief will be applied to for adjusting their demands which will give us an opportunity or repaying ourselves as far as the circumstances of the Sceedees will admit.—

For which reasons It Is Agreed to advance the Sciddees thirty thousand Rupees and we hope we shall not be blamed for so doing when our Honble Masters consider the danger this Settlement would be exposed to on the destruction of the Sciddees, That by our assistance they have hopes of maintaining their Country & We a prospect of being reimbursed the expence we have been at on that Account of the money they may recover from the Surat Government.—

"And here we must remark that tho the Charge of Defending Underee appears on our Books to be Rupees forty thousand seven hundred eighty five three quarters & forty seven reas the same is no more than we shou'd have been at in our own Garrison except for provisions to the Soldiers, Ammunition expended and Guns remaining there which two Latter Articles are charged at fifty p. cent & the sum of rupees sixteen thousand two hundred seventy five two quarters and thirty one reas for assisting the Sciddees wholly arises for Stores &c supply'd them att that advance."

Accets Passed.
Adjourned

John Horne
GEo: Taylor
JNo: Braddyll.

Public Department Diary, 8, pp. 38-9.

No. 73

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 27th FEBRUARY, 1734-5.

Imported the Neptune Frigate from her Cruize.

The President acquaints the Board last night he received a letter from Sciddee Saut advising him that he had sent twelve Gallivats up to Surat that Sciddee Mossoot wou'd Sail with another part of their fleet in three or four days & himself wou'd follow soon after with the remainder in order to recover the Arrears due to them from that Government by the Port.

It is therefore Agreed to keep our Cruizers at port to be ready to prevent the ill consequences of any attempts Sombajee may make on Colaba as well as to send to the assistance of the Gentlemen at (*torn*) Shou'd the Governour think proper to proceed to extremeties with us on account of the Sciddees.

Public Department Diary, 8, p. 75.

No. 74

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 16th MARCH, 1734-5.

LETTER FROM SURAT.

Imported a London Sloop from Surat with Mr. John Robinson on board who brought us a letter sign'd by the Chief & himself dated the 14th from the Bar, advising that the Sciddees had carried away the Moors Ships and requesting us to use our good offices with the Sciddees for returning them to prevent the fatal consequences that may otherwise attend to this proceeding— The Governour has signed an obligation to stand by the decision of the Chief & Sundry Merchants therein named and they did intend to have awarded the Sciddees a large sum for their Arrears, to have settled Sciddee Mossoot in Town & ascertained the sum to be paid annually in future.

Public Department Diary, 8, p. 94.

No. 75

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 16th MARCH, 1734-5.

The President acquaints the Board that he has desired this meeting to take into consideration the advices received last night and the morning from Surat giving an Account of the Sciddees seizing and carrying away the Merchants Ships which wou'd occasion the ruin of the city if by our persuasions they were not prevailed on to return them.

Debating hereupon It Is Observed That as the Surat Merchants are jealous of the Sciddees they will not consent to pay them any money while their ships and effects remain in their hands; and therefore the first step which seems to us necessary to be taken is to endeavour to prevail on the Sciddees to let the Merchants Ships and Cargoes be brought into this harbour which we think will in some measure pacifie the Merchants as their goods will not be so liable to be plundered as when in the Sciddees own Port.

Mr. Braddyll being nominated to proceed to Gingeera to discourse with the Sciddees on this occasion is unanimously approved of & It Is Agreed to direct him to use all possible arguments for prevailing on the Sciddees to let the Merchants Ships and Cargoes come hither and to engage on our behalf that they shall not be restored to the Moors till their demands on the Surat Governour are complied with to satisfaction. That he acquaints them with the terms offered by the Surat Govr and endeavour to persuade the Sciddees not to insist on too unreasonable terms and at the same time let them know we will use our good Offices for obtaining them as a large

a sum as possible. That he also endeavours to prevail on the Sciddees to send Sciddee Mossoot immediately upto Surat Bar to treat with the Govr & as soon as anything is concluded to send advice thereof express to Surat that such of the Merchts whose Ships are almost in a readiness to proceed on their voyages may take the proper measures so as not to lose the benefit of the Season.

Directed that a letter be wrote to Surat to give them notice of this our Resolution and that they acquaint the Merchants therewith.

Adjourned.

John Horne
GEo: Taylor
JNo: Braddyll.

Public Department Diary, 8, p. 96.

No. 76

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 27th MARCH, 1734-5.

Received a letter from Mr. Braddyll by a Gallivat dated the 25th advising that the Sciddees has at last consented to let the ships come hither on condition that in case the Surat Govr did not comply with their demands & finish their affairs to their satisfaction within 20 days after their arrival at Bombay they shou'd have free liberty to return with them and for our compliance there with Mr. Braddyll in our behalf gave them an obligation under his hand and Seals, He is preparing to sail with the fleet, and as the Cruizers may be very serviceable he keeps them to help few the heavy ships and send this advice that we may give the proper order to Surat. The Sciddees assured him that the Ships Hatchways were all sealed down to prevent pilferage, & he thinks nothing has been landed except some timber which the Sciddees very much wanted & it's value may be deducted out of the sum to be paid them by the Surat Government.

Public Department Diary, 8, pp. 105-6.

No. 77

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 28th MARCH, 1734-5.

Imported the Cowan Frigate from Surat by whom we reced. a letter from Mr. Lowther dated the 26th owning the recept of ours of the 22nd, He says that from our endeavouring to gett the ships /taken by the Sciddees/ to be returned & his preventing their second fleet of Gallivats carrying away the other Ships from the Bar, the Merchants and People of the City seem thoroughly satisfied that We have acted disinterested part bet-

ween them and the Sciddee He has communicated our Orders to the Gentlemen in Town & as soon as he has an answer from them will advise us of their proceedings.

Public Department Diary, 8, p. 106.

No. 78

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 28th MARCH, 1734-5.

The President acquaints the Board that immediately on receipt of Mr. Braddyll's letter he dispatched Gallivat with copy of it to Mr. Lowther and directed him to communicate the contents to the Merchants and that no time may be lost he permitted him to send down the Britannia with the money the Merchants might consent to advance the Sciddees on releasing their Ships—Which the Board approves of.—

The Storekeepers adjustment in said months (August & September & October.)

And his account of Stores supplied the Sciddees & Manajee Angria in Novr Decr Janry the former amounting to rupees nineteen thousand five hundred eighty six one quarter & thirty eight reas & the latter three thousand one hundred forty three, one quarter & eighty six reas.

Adjourned.

John Horne
GEo: Taylor
JNo: Braddyll
T. Lambton.

Public Department Diary, 8, pp. 106-7.

No. 79

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 11th APRIL, 1735.

The President acquaints the Board that Sciddee Saut had by message represented to him That he had received advice that Sombajee Angria was preparing to attack the Forts of Govalcote and Anjenwell by land and intended also to proceed with his fleet to block them up Desiring we would order our Vessels down thither to convoy some recruits he is now about to send, & to lie off the port of Anjenwell to protect those forts from the Enemies attempts by sea. At the same time he also expressed the want of a further supply of money & stores, the people in those Forts being uneasy for want of their pay and the places bare of Ammunition.

As we dont in the least apprehend we shall have immediate occasion for our Vessells to the Northward and that the sending them to lie some time off Anjenwell to countenance the port is not likely to be attended with any

ill consequences. It is agreed so far to comply with Sciddee Sauts request but that we acquainted him we are unwilling to put our Honble Masters to any further expence on their Accounts till we see some progress made or at least some prospect of their being in a condition to clear off part of their present debt.

Capt. Macneals Petition.—

Capt. Robert Macneale represents to the Board that when he was prisoner with Angria he did by orders from the then President, convey the best intelligence he coud gett of their designs & finding a favourable opportunity did at last procure his own and the other prisoners ransom for a small sum of money, But that he had been at the expence of upwards of five hundred rupees for which he had never been considered, That indeed just before his departure for China the last season he gave in a petition to this board......

John Horne
GEo: Taylor
JNo: Braddyll.

Public Department Diary, 8, p. 112.

No. 80

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 12th APRIL, 1735.

Sciddee Saut sent a message to the President acquainting him that his people absolutely refused to embark for Anjenwell without part of their pay and some provisions being sent with them which being communicated to the rest of the Council It was judged of too dangerous consequence to risque the safety of the Sciddees Southern forts by refusing them a further supply and it was therefore Agreed to let them have four thousand rupees in money and fifty Morahs of Batty less than which wou'd not have pacified their People.

Public Department Diary, 8, p. 115.

No. 81

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 15th APRIL, 1735.

Received a letter from the Chief & Factors at Surat dated the 8th advising that the Chief got up to town the 4th since when they have had two meetings with the Merchants but cou'd not prevail with them to come to any resolution, as Tedgee Beg Caun seem'd determined not to part with any money till the Ships were returned, & the Merchants were under so great an uncertainty whether the Sciddees wou'd part with them till all accounts were settled, and tho' they seem sensible of their ruin in case the

Ships are not returned they agreed to nothing more than requesting the President to make the Sciddees easy and get their Ships back, if to be done for fifty thousand Rupees.—they say that the market is fallen twenty p. cent. & they enumerate the ill consequences that must attend that port if they do not come to an agreement with the Sciddees.

Public Department Diary, 8, p. 115.

No. 82

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 16th APRIL, 1735.

Sailed the Neptune Frigate, King George & Princess Carolina Galleys, with a Sciddee Ships for Anjenwell.

Public Department Diary, 8, p. 116.

No. 83

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 25th APRIL, 1735.

The President acquaints the Board that yesterday he reced. a message from Siddee Saut acquainting him that Sciddee Abdell Reman had ordered him to return with the Surat Ships as the time limited for making up the Affairs was expired and desiring his leave to depart with them, the President therefore desires the concurrence of the Board in an answer to be given to Sciddee Saut.

Considering whereupon it is observed that as Mr. Braddyll did on our behalf sign an obligation for our permitting the Sciddees to return with the Ships in case their affairs were not made up with the Surat Government within twenty days after their arrival here and as no certain account is arrived from Surat of Sciddee Mossoots proceedings, We can therefore only endeavour to persuade Sciddee Saut to remain here with the Ships till we receive advices from Surat & in case of his refusal we cannot pretend to prevent his carrying the Ships away as by such a step we should not only be guilty of a breach of publick faith but probably involve ourselves in a dispute with the Suratters as well as Sciddees.

And therefore the President is desired to give Sciddee Saut an answer to the purpose aforegoing.

Adjourned

John Horne
GEo: Taylor
JNo: Braddyll.

Public Department Diary, 8, pp. 120-1.

No. 84

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 26th APRIL, 1735.

LETTER FROM SURAT.

Imported the Success Captain John Dugud from Surat by whom we reced a letter from the Chief and Factors there dated the 19th advising that Sciddee Mossoot arrived at the Bar the 12th whereupon the Chief and some other Gentlmen waited on the Govr at his request who desired them to endeavour to persuade Sciddee Mossoot to come upto town and that security should be given for his safe return if they cou'd not settle their Affairs, but he refused going any higher than Ombra and being there in his Gallivats the Chief with some other Genrl again went to him but he refused to come ashore & they condescended to go and sit in an open Gallivat with him, when he insisted on two lacks of rupees and two thousand Morahs of Batty before he wou'd enter upon the subject of their Arrears, affirming with much assurance that he was promised this by the president in writing, which had the Merchants given credit to, wou'd have created suspicions of uncandid dealings in us.—Thereupon they parted without coming to any agreement. The 18th the Merchants assembled in the Factory when the Sciddees Vakkeel made his demands in their behalf but they were so extravagant that none of them wou'd listen to him pretending to claim money for 50 years past, In answer to this he was reminded of the Agreement Sciddee Mossoot made in January 1732/3 for fifty thousand rupees in lieu of all arrears, tho the whole sum had not been paid for want of a proper release, the Gentlemen think the Sciddees have no claim, but since that time which will reduce their demands to a narrow compass as their Tanka is but one hundred and ninety thousand rupees per annum deducting seventy p. cent & for the first year of Tedjee Beg Cauns Government the reced one hundred and twenty thousand rupees & the Govr pretends that Sciddee Mossoots good services in assisting him to gain his Government was the reason that induced him to pay so large a sum and that Tedjee Beg Caun does not now seem willing to part with above 50000 Rupees They say that the Merchants at breaking up this meeting hinted to them that they had now Sundry Ships riding at the Bar & as the Sciddees went up thither by our advice it was expected that we prevent their carrying away any of those Ships, The Gentlemen they dont suppose Sciddee Mossoot would attempt such a thing after their representing that it wou'd be a prejudice to Our honble Masters Affairs & consequently highly resented by us, nevertheless they have given orders to Captain Yoakly of the Britannia to watch them and if he finds they have such a design he is to endeavour to dissuade them from it by mild Arguments but if they persist in it he is to prevent them by force.

Public Department Diary, 8, pp. 123-4.

No. 85

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 28th APRIL, 1735.

We observe the several steps they had taken with the Merchants concerning the Sciddees Affairs and that on being told it was expected they shou'd prevent Sciddee Mossoot carrying away any of the Ships at the Bar they had given discretionary Orders to the Comr of the Britannia to do so even by force if mild arguments did not prevail, The insinuation of the Merchants that the Sciddees went to the Bar by our Advice is a scandolous return for the trouble we have taken upon their Account as it was their repeated request that a person shou'd be sent up fully authorized by the Sciddees to put an end to their present troubles &, Gentlemen complying with such their unreasonable expectations is what we cannot approve of.—We have hitherto acted as friends to both partys and shou'd the Orders the Gentlemen gave the Comr of Britannia be put in execution we shou'd manifestly become partys and engage ourselves in a quarrel with the Sciddees if not with the Suratters in the end, the consequences whereof are too evident to need being enumerated here. And the Surat Governour and Merchants shewing so little inclination to accomodate with the Sciddees we think best to interfere no further between them if matters are not soon adjourned.

Adjourned.

John Horne
GEo: Taylor
JNo: Braddyll.

Public Department Diary, 8, pp. 125-6.

No. 86

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 2nd MAY, 1735.

The President informs the Board that he had called this meeting to relate to them the conference he had had with Sciddee Saut upon the subject matter of the award of the Arbitrators chose for adjusting the Sciddees demands upon the Surat Government, The substance whereof is as follows.

That when he the President Acquainted Sidi Saut that the sum of two hundred thousand rupees wou'd be paid them provided the Ships were delivered up & a general release given by them to the Governour of Surat quitting all Claim to any Arrears that may be esteemed due to them the Sciddees, Sciddee Saut scornfully replied that they would neither do the one or the other, That he hoped we did not take them Children easily to part with nine lack of rupees which they had in possession for the sake

of two which if immediately paid would not answer their present necessitys He then proceeded to say with much warmth that it was true we had possess'd ourselves their friends but had done them more harm than good That long ere this with the assistance of the Portugueze/if we had not advised them to the contrary/they should be in possession of their Country about Choule &c & that they shou'd by this time also have been sufficiently in Cash to have answered all their occasions if Mr. Lowther had not patronized Chellabys Grab and sent Boats with English Colours to take out all the treasure on board which amounted to upwards of 3 lacks of Rupees.

Hereupon the President reminded Sidi Saut of the singular services we had from time to time done them which are needless to repeat here That Underee was still garrison'd by us & our fleet at this juncture upon their service at Anjenwell by all which means they had incurr'd a debt to the Company of near One hundred and fifty thousand rupees the particulars of which shou'd wou'd be deliver'd to them at a proper opportunity. That all this was done while there was little hopes of their being able to repay the Company from any reasonable time.

The President further acquaints the Board that after having spent several hours to bring Sciddee Saut to reason & finding no arguments of force enough to prevail with them to accept of the offer made by the Suratters for adjusting of all their differences he concludes it wou'd be in vain to lose more time upon the occasion to the hindrance of other business and therefore gave him to understand that since he found their and the offers of the Suratters to differ so widely there was no hopes of bringing them to an Agreement & with all as they had made the Company so ungenerous and ungratefull a return for all our services He the President wou'd leave them to themselves & wish'd their Affairs might be conducted more successfully and to their liking by any less disinterested and more able friend. That they were at liberty to depart with the Surat Shipping agreeable to the writing which Mr. Braddyll had passed on their consenting to bring the Ships hither but that it wou'd be necessary that he Sciddee Saut should think of some security for payment of the Companys debt before he went away As the greatest part thereof has been contracted by him as well appear by his several letters to the President &c of which he is left to consider till this afternoon the time appointed for his taking leave.—

The President then offers it to the opinion of the Board whether the answer he has given to the Sciddee or any other may be more suitable at this critical juncture who are unanimous That it is highly proper and necessary that a becoming resentment be shewn at the ingratitude of the Sciddee as a means to spur them on to come to some reasonable terms with the Suratters and we thereby be able to secure some part of their

large debt to our Ho Masters And when we find them truly sorry for their indiscretion and their enemies so powerfull that they cannot be supported without our assistance We may easily take them by the hand again if it will prevent their fall and keep out more dangerous neighbours.

Adjourned.

John Horne
GEo: Taylor
JNo: Braddyll
T. Lambton.

Public Department Diary, 8, pp. 127-9.

No. 87

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 8th MAY, 1735.

Imported the Britannia with Henry Lowther Esqr on board from Surat He delivered us a letter from himself dated at the Bar the 3rd Instant advising that the Governour and Merchants had consented to pay the Sciddees two lacks of rupees in lieu of all Arrears but that the Governour cou'd only be prevailed on to advance one lack for the present but had given his note to the Merchants for payment of the other, they to become security to the Sciddees that twenty-five thousand rupees in part thereof be discharged in one month and the remainder on arrival of their ships at Surat and out of the above sum should be deducted the amount of such goods as might have been taken out of any of the Ships by the Sciddees.— The Merchants requested Mr. Lowther to proceed to Bombay on the Britannia with their money and obligation for the other Lack in hopes of putting an end to their troubles which he and the Gentlemen in Town thought best to comply with.—That when the resolution of paying the Sciddees two lack of rupees was made It was proposed in case the Sciddees did not accept thereof to advance the English as far as one lack if they wou'd prevent the Sciddees carrying the Ships back from Bombay and return them to Surat, and the Merchants wou'd engage to procure us the Kings Phirmaund for the full Tanka of two lack of Rupees p. Annum and that for the charges in obtaining it we shou'd only return them what money they might advance us for detaining their ships from the Sciddees.— That Sciddee Mossoot on his first arrival promised to follow the Advise in all his proceedings notwithstanding which he had privately put soldiers on board of a Grab belonging to Ahumud Chellaby, and a Ship to Mahmud Araft, upon which the Chief expostulated with him telling him that as it was thought he went to the Bar now by our advice whatever hostilities he might committ wou'd be laid to our charge and at last told him that he cou'd not permit his

carrying wither of them away to which Sciddee Mossoot answered that as he judged Ahmud Chellaby and Mahumud Araft occasioned delays in finishing their affairs he thought this step wou'd oblige them to a compliance.— Mr. Lowther acknowledges the receipt of our letters of the 26th & 28th Ultimo forbidding their interfering with the Government & Sciddees farther than by expostulation, upon which he again endeavoured to persuade Sciddee Mossoot to take his people on board the Grab & Ship urging the unreasonableness of his committing fresh hostilities at a time when their friends were endeavouring to accomdate the dispute amicably but this had no effect upon him On the contrary he demanded the money on Board the Britannia, and used Mr. Lowther with much insolence and abruptly leaving him said the Sciddees might have an opportunity of letting the English see them in their old shape, That since our positive orders he should not use any force to prevent Sciddee Mossoot carrying away any other of the Ships, but as it is the general opinion that the Sciddees proceed entirely by our advice the Gentlemen in Town as well as himself seem to dread the consequences of such a step, nay even of our permitting the Sciddees to carry back the ships from hence.

Public Department Diary, 8, pp. 129-31.

No. 88

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 9th MAY, 1735.

Read and Approved our last Consultation.

The President acquaints the Board that when Sciddee Saut came to him last friday to take his leave he took that opportunity of letting him know we resented his manner of expressing himself in regard to the friendship and assistance we had so readily afforded the Sciddees in their necessity, as well as his unhandsome usage of the President at a former conference, But before he went away He made a great many concessions & beg'd pardon for his fault which he had been led into thro' his vexation at the disappointment he had met with in the proceedings at Surat where he hoped everything wou'd have been ended amicably and desired that what had happen'd might be forgott and made many assurances of their gratitude for the obligations they were under to the English & that they wou'd not proceed on any affair of consequence without their advice and approbation The President not judging it proper to make a quarrel with the Sciddees upon the occasion and thinking that Sciddee Saut had made a reasonable submission told him that everything shou'd be forgot and the English wou'd always be ready to shew themselves friends to the Sciddees, And Sciddee Saut then took his leave very well satisfied.

Tho' last Friday afternoon Sciddee Saut took his leave to depart he has since desired to stay sometime longer in expectation of having a certain account of Mr. Lowther & Sciddee Mossoot their proceedings in the Sciddees affairs at Surat and as Mr. Lowther is now arrived with the Merchants last offers It is agreed to send for Sciddee Saut this afternoon to acquaint him therewith and to endeavour to prevail with him to accept of said terms and obtain a final discharge from Sciddee Abdul Raman without which we cannot part with any of the Surat Merchants money; But we much doubt they will not give back so large a pledge as they have in their possession for so small a sum at two lack of Rupees and shou'd Sciddee Saut refuse the said offers We cannot for the reasons in Consultation of the 25th Ultimo, prevent his departing with the Ships.

Public Department Diary, 8, pp. 131-2.

No. 89

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 13th MAY, 1735.

LETTER FROM SURAT.

Received a letter from the Gentlemen at Surat dated the 6th Instant wherein they excuse themselves for giving the orders to Capt. Yoakley which we disapproved of in our own letters of the 26th and 28th Ultimo but, that they were induced thereto thro' the danger they apprehended the Honble Companys estate and their own lives wou'd have been in had Sciddee Mossoot carried away the Ships at that time, That the Articles we disapproved of were not agreed to by them but incerted for our notice at the request of the Merchants, for advancing him 25000 rupees on account of what had been awarded the Sciddees on his letting go the Ships and Grab he had taken possession of, which they hope will succeed and the Merchants will then send their Vakeels to adjust the account of what goods may have been taken out of their Ships by the Sciddees.

Sailed.

Public Department Diary, 8, p. 133.

No. 90

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 14th MAY, 1735.

Sailed the Sciddees fleet of Vessels with Sciddee Saut carrying back the Surat Ships to the Gingeera.

Public Department Diary, 8, p. 134.

No. 91

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 14th MAY, 1735.

The President observes to the Board that the Sciddees being returned with the Surat Merchant Ships to Gingeera and our Gentlemen at Surat seeming apprehensions of ill consequences arising therefrom, He thinks, to convince the said Merchants that we have no interest in this proceeding of the Sciddees it would be proper to forbid any persons inhabitants of this Island or under the Hon Companys protection their buying or trafficking for any part of the said Ships or Goods Which being Agreeable to the opinion of the rest of the numbers Directed that a publication be immediately prepared & published in the English, Portugueze, Moor and Ientoo languages that no person may plead ignorance of this resolution.

Public Department Diary, 8, p. 134.

No. 92

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 20th AUGUST, 1735.

Received a letter from the Gentlemen at Surat dated the 11th instant advising that the Govr Tedjee Beg Caun & the Sciddees had adjusted their demands the Govr having agreed to pay them twenty four thousand rupees on account of arrears and one hundred and fifty thousand rupees for this Years Tanka, the former sum to be paid in hand and the other out of the revenues as usual. Whereupon the Govr demanding fifty thousand rupees in part of the money sent down hither they told him they cou'd not comply therewith, But that the money wou'd be paid to any person at Bombay who shou'd be empowered to receive it Golam Mahmud a second time expressing an immediate want of money to pay the Sciddees and hinting that the piscash was due, they had rather than disoblige him let him have fifteen thousand rupees.

Public Department Diary, 8, p. 178.

No. 93

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 23rd AUGUST, 1735.

The Vessells belonging to the Sciddees being on their departure for Rajahporee and their commanding Officer having represented that they are bare of provisions and requesting us to assist them with a supply

of money we wou'd not willingly disgust them by a refusal at this time as we hope to recover good part of their debt out of the money they may receive from Surat And therefore it is Agreed to let them have fifty Morahs of Batty which the Warehousekeeper is ordered to deliver to them.— And the President at the same time acquaints the Board On receipt of the last advices from Surat he immediately wrote to Sciddee Abdul Raman & Sciddee Saut to give orders to Surat that the Lack of Rupees deposited in our Treasury might remain here by which means he is in hopes of recovering that sum for the Company.

Public Department Diary, 8, p. 180.

No. 94

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 20th FEBRUARY, 1735-6.

.........that the Merchants have had Sundry meetings in order to settle the Sciddee Affairs...... At the same time he sent Copy of the Agreement entered into with Sciddee Mossoot last year which is as follows, That the sum of two hundred and forty thousand rupees shou'd be paid them on Account their Old arrears of which eighty thousand was paid in hand and the remainder thousand rupees made good on restoring the Ships and Effects belonging to the place the embeezlement being first ascertained and satisfied but in the meantime the trade this year shou'd go on without any interruption; the other Europeans sent their brokers to Sciddee Mossoot to acquaint him the Governour was ready to perform his agreement and to know further what he had to demand, All the answer that cou'd be obtained that his principals rejected it as not sufficient for their present necessitys.........Messrs Hope & Ramsden used many arguments to be excused interfering and urged that at Tedjee Beg Cauns request to the president, they were ordered not to interpose in any disputes, but these representations being in vain they agreed to send two messangers to the Sciddees desiring him to accomodate these affairs as soon as possible and they shall interfere no further till they receive our orders, Sciddee Mossoot returned them the same answer as to the other Europeans viz. that he acknowledges the contract stipulated with the Government which he was fully authorized to enter into from his principals who have since flown off, but he had sent a Galivat to Gingeera for Sciddee Abdell Remans ultimate orders with pressing instances to come to a reasonable accomodation.

Public Department Diary, 9, pp. 54-5.

No. 95

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 21st FEBRUARY, 1735-6.

The President acquaints the Board that he has desired this meeting to take into consideration the letter recd last night from Surat which being Read, It is observed that the Governour insists upon our joining with them to prevent the Sciddees carrying away the Ships and that our Gentlemen upon their refusing / according to our orders / to intermeddle, apprehend their trade will be stopt to oblige them to comply, But this is what we can never come into as it might not only create a quarrel between us and the Sciddees but deprive them of the only means they tell us they have to pay their debt to the Company, However as the Sciddees again carrying away the Surat Ships wou'd be the entire ruin of the city. It is agreed that the President write to Sciddee Abdell Raman desiring him to give orders to Sciddee Mossoot either to stand to the Agreement made last year or to accomodate their affairs on reasonable terms and if the Gentlemen at Surat find there is a prospect of succeeding that we permit them upon their being solicited to use their good Offices to accomodating this dispute with this caution that they do not by this determination give the Sciddees plead that we deprive them of the means of paying their debt to the Company; that however they endeavour to satisfie both partys but on no account engage themselves to oblige either to perform the conditions that may be agreed upon.

Public Department Diary, 9, pp. 55-6.

No. 96

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 25th FEBRUARY, 1735-6.

That at a meeting of the Merchants it was agreed to send the Duan with two Merchants to Sciddee Mossoot to know his ultimate Resolutions on what terms he will finish which gives them hopes matters will soon be brought to a conclusion.

Public Department Diary, 9, p. 169.

No. 97

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 16th MARCH, 1735-6.

Received a letter from the Supravisor &c at Surat dated the 9th Instant advising that they Cou'd not prevail upon Sciddee Mossoot to

part with any ready Money he being pressed to send down as much as he possibly could to Gingeerah to quiet their soldiers, and having been obliged to discharge some unavoidable—made on him at Surat.

Public Department Diary, 9, p. 129.

No. 98

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 5th MAY, 1737.

The President acquaints the Board that he has been several times told the Sciddees People were discontented and uneasy for want of Pay, & he now lays before them a Letter wrote him by Captain Inchbird from Sion advising him that those People had publickly declared they wou'd not continue here without being regularly paid,—Which being Debated on, IT IS Observed that the Crediting the Sciddees Accot for the Charges of Sending and Maintaining these People while they continued here is what we cou'd not well refuse to do, But shou'd we consent to pay them in ready Money it wou'd amount to a very considerable sum, as they pretend to ask much greater Pay than our own People, tho' from the unruly disposition of the common People, & the little Obedience they have shewn to the Orders of the Commanding Officers we can expect no Service from them but what suits their own Inclination, & We are apprehensive that they may commit Disorders & Occasion Uneasiness amongst our own Inhabitants, We are daily in expectation of our Fleet, and when they arrive We hope to be in a condition to defend the Island shou'd the Morattas make any attempts against us and therefore It is Agreed that we send the Sciddees People back to Rajahporee, and that they may not go away disgusted That we give each of them one months Pay according to the rates allowed our own Sepoys & one hundred Rupees each to the two Chief Officers.

Public Department Diary, 10, p. 114.

No. 99

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 1st SEPTEMBER, 1737.

The President acquaints the Board That he has desired this Meeting to Communicate to them the substance of a Letter he reced two days ago from the Sciddees Officer at Undeiah, Fleet in order to Intercept the Vessels expected from Mocho That to get his Ship in a readiness, & had ordered two of the Cruizers to be also got ready, which would be done by the Morrow Night, And He now desires the opinion of the Board on this occasion.

Public Department Diary, 10, p. 208.

No. 100

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 10th APRIL, 1738.

The President then acquaints the Board that two days ago he reced a Lre by 2 persons sent from the Sciddees commanding Officer at Underee earnestly requesting us to Supply that place with Batty for the rains as otherwise they cannot possibly maintain The Board debating thereupon It is observed that we have not grain to supply & our Hon Masters Orders are very possitive against making any further Loans to the Country Governmts; We hope the Sciddees Necessitys for Grain not be so pressing as they set forth But shou'd they be oblig'd for want there to quit the place We shall be withdrawing the Guns & Stores from thence some degrees lessen their Debt; We are sensible that Ill consequences attend the Island falling into other Hands Yet for the reasons before Gen We dont think it prudent at present to comply with the Sciddees demand and the President is desired to write the proper answer.

Public Department Diary, 11, p. 88.

No. 101

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 28th APRIL, 1738.

The President acquaints the Board that the Sciddees had frequently /since our refusing them rice/ represented to him that unless we supply the Garrison of Underee, the place must inevitably fall into Monajee's hands who has already been tampering with their people, Some of whom had deserted to him and assur'd that the rest wou'd deliver up the ......and furnish them with provisions, The Presidt gave the ....Supplied unless they cou'd give security for the payment of what we shou'd let them have which their Necessities for provisions have at length oblig'd them to do they now offer'd some of our Inhabitants Dowdjee Nocqua Sunker and Saiboo Pondia who are persons of some importance and substance to be bound for them; The Board considering Inconviniencys that wou'd attend said Islands falling into Monackjee's hands Do agree to let the Sciddees have One Thousand Bags of Bengall rice at the rate it is Charg'd to us, on the above said persons giving their Bond for payment of the Amount.

Public Department Diary, 11, pp. 103-4.

No. 102

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 16th JUNE, 1738.

As the time wou'd draw near to expect the Ships from the red Sea before we can write often to Surat and receive answers from thence. It is

now Mov'd to consider What orders to give the Gentn for recovery of the Sciddees debt When the presidt communicates to the Board the substance of a Letter he had drawn up to the Governing Sciddee Abdull Raman advising him of the Order we have recd from Court, pressing him to think of some method to discharge their Debt to the Honoble Comp who are very uneasy continuing so long unpaid, & that if he can propose no other way, The presidt hopes he will not take amiss our applying to the Surat Govr to put the Royal Orders in Execution which the Board approves of.—

The Gentlemen at Surat in their Letter of the 29th April seem to be of opinion that the recovery of this debt may be Effected by mild measures and with the Sciddees consent This we shoud be very glad to bring about & it is therefore agreed to direct them to pursue the Method & we shall be contented if we can prevail on Sciddee Mussoot to pay Fifty Thousand rupees present Season and make over a sufficient part of their Tanka, for discharging the remainder of their Debt next year as it is sensible that by a hasty recovery of the whole we shou'd both disgust and distress the Sciddees which we wou'd avoid if possible as we shoud soon feel the Ill Consequences thereof.—

Public Department Diary, 11, pp. 137-8.

No. 103

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 28th JUNE, 1738.

LETTER FROM SURAT.

They wait our Orders concerning the Sciddees as it will require some time to prepare matters before they can proceed to stop up the trade of the port.— They said they have already complain'd of Sciddee Mussoots Insolence who lately took upon him to protect one of their Debtors against them /who had for some time withdrawn himself carrying off with him the Goods which were given as security for the Debt/ of that they are unwilling to quarrell and disturb the place until they can do it to the purpose, observing that the Stonness shewn in resenting Injurys will one day prove of the most dangerous consequence to our Honble Masters The Sciddees they say think their Case parallel to the late Brokers pretending they have nothing to Discharge their Debt & Force alone must oblige them but they are Encourag'd to believe we will not Quarrell with them and endeavour to delay the time by fair promises and pretexts without thinking of paying any part of their Debt. When we send a Force to the Barr for recovering the Sciddees and the late Brokers Debts they think we ought to shew a resentment for all past Inquiries reced from the Governmt and that no Consideration shou'd prevail with us to delay longer the sending

of a proper Force to the Barr They desire us to send them the Sciddees Accot and any note or Bond we may have of theirs.

Public Department Diary, 11, p. 143.

No. 104

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 30th JUNE, 1738.

As We have not reced. any answer from the Sciddee to the Lre wrote him by the presidt pursuant to the last Consultation We dont think it necessary at present to give the Gentn at Surat any possitive orders on this Subject But lest the Sciddee shou'd endeavour to evade paymt of their Debt / which our Honble Masters have so strenuously recommended the recovery of It is agreed that three of the Cruizers be got in readiness to proceed to the Barr till after the full Moon, tho' we shou'd be glad not to be oblig'd employ them for Compelling the Sciddees pay their Debt as the recovery of the whole out of their Tanka/ which at present is their only support/ must drive them to Extremities; either to plunder for themselves or Submit to the Sou Rajah either of which we shou'd wish to prevent.

Public Department Diary, 11, p. 144.

No. 105

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 4th JULY, 1738.

The president communicates to the Board a Letter he has reced from the Sciddee in answer to that wrote him concerning the payment of their Debt, Wherein he Expresses how greatly he thinks himself oblig'd for the Assistance we gave them in their necessities, That for this reason he thinks himself bound to see the Honble Company first paid And he had accordingly repeated his Orders to Sciddee Mussoot for that purpose.—

The Board debating thereupon It is observed that the like promises having been so often made by the Sciddee without any Effect, we have no reason to expect a Compliance at presents, it therefore behoves us to think of some other Method to secure the payment of that Debt We are sensible the Sciddees necessitys are very great, & the Tanka paid them at Surat their only support, Shou'd we therefore stop that from them & deprive them of all means of subsist, It is more than probable they wou'd be render'd so desparate as to set up for themselves and plunder the fair Trader, or else submit to the Sou Rajah, The Consequences of either woud prove very fatal to the Island and therefore we woud if possible

prevent them—The sending a person from hence to discourse the Sciddee and settle the discharge of the Debt it was Judged might have a better Effect than writing which we have found to be attended with so many delays and evasions But the violence of the Weather since the setting in of the Rains, has hitherto prevented that Design being Executed But the Weather being at present somewhat more favourable and our Sea-faring people of opinion that a Gallivat may go and return from Gingerah with safety The Board now resume the Debate And there being several points to adjust and clear up which cannot satisfactorily be done by Lre and as we are desirous of recovering the Debt without distressing the Sciddees too far, for the reasons already given, which we are of opinion may also be more easily and speedily accomplished be sending a person with powers for that purpose then can be done It is Agreed that we make trial of this Method and Mr. Thomas Stonestreet is made choice of for the said service.

The Board then debating what Terms we must Empower Mr. Stonestreet to accept for Discharging the Debt without driving the Sciddees to Extremities and at the same time may be pleasing to our Honble Masters We are of Opinion that getting Forty thousand rupees this year the like sum the next, and the Balance of the Debt the Year after, will be an advantageous adjustment as we are convinc'd the Indigent Circumstances of the Sciddees will not admit of their paying the whole at once It is therefore Agreed that a Latitude to the above purport be given accordingly in our Instruction to Mr. Stonestreet.

Public Department Diary, 11, pp. 153-4.

No. 106

To

Mr. Thomas Stonestreet.

Sr

The Scydees being largely Endebted to our Honble Masters and an order having been obtain'd from the Mogull on Teg Beg Caun Govr of Surat for the payment of said Debt out of the Scydees Tanka; It as you know occasion'd frequent debates concerning the most proper methods to be taken for recovering or securing said Debt and the Board duely weighing the Ill Consequences that may arise to the Welfare of this Island shou'd the Sciddees / by our forceably taking the amount of one Years Tanka from them/ be driven to despair, or be so far disgusted with us as to become our publick Enemys, and either Join with or submitt to the Morattas for a Subsistence; we have at last come to a resolution /before we proceed to stop up Surat Bar / of sending a proper person to

Gingerah to sound the Scydees Intentions & try what terms they can be brought to for accomodating and securing their debt; and having for severall good reasons pitch'd on you as the most likely to succeed in this Negotiation, We shall now give you such Instructions have been Judged Expedient for your management.

And first on your arrivall at Gingerah you are to deliver the presidts Letter to Sciddee Yaucob Caun, /Copy whereof in English you will receive herewith for your Notice/ containing your full Credentials & a positive demand for his Immediate satisfying the Scydees Debt to the Honble Company either by paying ready Money or assigning over their Tanka and giving you a plain and express Order on Teg Beg Caun for discharging it, the said Letter likewise contains a complaint against Scydee Mussoot & requiring that he be recal'd from thence, for his insolence in interfering with the Companys Affairs & affronting our Chief there.—

But as the Indigent circumstances of the Scydees will not tis fear'd permit of assigning sufficient out of their Tanka for clearing their whole Debt at once, without distressing them too much and greatly prejudicing their affairs, We have consented to accept a positive order on Teg Beg Caun for the Immediate payment of Forty or Fifty Thousand rupees and as much more within twelve months however you must use your utmose Endeavours to prevail on Scydee Yaucob Caun for the present payment of as much more as possible and the Greater the sum you recover the more acceptable will it be to our Honble Masters and recommend you to their Favour.—

Shou'd Sciddee Yaucob Caun consent to give the premention'd Orders on Teg Beg Caun, it will be proper you carry with you a person who understands the Persian Language to read the said Orders, for these Country people are so used to Shuffling & Chicanery that they will if possible endeavour to Impose upon you & therefore you must be very carefull in having the Orders worded in such a manner as to admit of no evasions or dispute; This caution is the more necessary because Scydee Yaucob Caun has frequently advis'd the presidt he had Expressly order'd Scydee Mosoot at Surat clear our demand, but either those orders were not sent or he refused to comply with them & in a letter reced yesterday in answer to what the presidt wrote the 16th Ulto the Governing Scydee informs him he has repeated his Orders Mossoot us out of hand but this we look upon no better than an Excuse calculated only with design to amuse us and delay the payment.

And as they have hitherto put us off with trifling excuses and repeated promises of payment which have been as often broken, you must not suffer yourself to be deceived by any fair Speeches or specious pretences they may make use of but Insist on a positive and direct answer that we may take our measures accordingly.

It is probable the Scydees will make a demand for the pay and other charges attending the Detachment they sent thither when the Morattas invaded Salsett, This we cannot but allow of; for if we refuse it or dispute the sum they demand It will give them a handle to Cavil and raise objections against our Account that may occasion delay—And for your Guidance in settling the payment of their Debt you have herewith deliver'd you an Abstract of their Account to the last of May the Balance due being rups One Hundred Three thousand four Hundred, Twenty Eight, Fifty two reas.

In discourse to Scydee Yaucob Caun you may hint to him our great Consideration in sending you to treat with him on this occasion & represent to him how strong a mark it is of the friendship we are desirous of preserving with him that we have communicated our Sentiments to him & waited his answer before we proceeded, when we had it in our power, if we pleased to put the Royal Mandate in Execution without his knowledge or Consent neither of which were Necessarily required for Teg Beg Cauns compliance.

It will not be improper for you to hint to the Governing Scydee that he is deeply Endebted to severall of the Inhabitants who have applyd to us for redress & let him know we Expect He likewise discharges those debts & if he cannot pay the whole at present, that he clears a part at least.

If the Governing Scydee refuses to give the necessary orders to Teg Beg Caun or to propose some other speedy and effectual Method for discharging their Debt, you may let him know we can bear with no longer Delays and then take your leave.

But during your stay we wou'd have you insist on Scydee Mossoots being recalled from Surat, since from his past Behaviour, tis reasonable to conclude he will as much in him his Oppose & Impede our recovering all or any part of their Debt.

As soon as you have fully discoursed these points with the Governing Scydee & reced his final answer We wou'd have you if the Weather permits /make the best of your way back that we may not lose the opportunity of Stopping up Surat Barr & by that means Secure their Debt in case his Determination does not prove satisfactory.

The Dolphin Galivat is ready and order'd to attend you but shou'd the Weather prove tempestuous before you have well weather'd Canaree we believe it will be the safest Way for you to return into this Harbour.—

We wish you Success in your Undertakings & a safe return

And are
Sir
Your Loving Friends

Bombay Castle the 4th
July, 1738.

Public Department Diary, 11, pp. 155-7.

No. 107

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 21st JULY, 1738.

READ AND APPROVED OUR LAST CONSULTATION.

Mr. Thomas Stonestreet being returned from Gingerah now delivers in a report of his transaction with the Sciddee for recovering the Debt due to our Honble Masters which is read as entred after this Consultation, Whereby we find the Sciddee refuses to pay more than Twenty five Thousand p. Annam & even for that we cannot have the Necessary Security—Though Mr. Stonestreet's proceedings have not been attended with better Success yet the Board believing he has done all that was possible for obtaining the end of his Commission, His Endeavours are Approved.—
The Board then debating how to proceed for recovery of this Debt, These repeated delays of the Sciddees & his absolute refusal to give us security of paying it by fair means in a reasonable time cannot but determine us to endeavour to persuade or on failure of mild Measures to oblige the Surat Government to pay us out of the Sciddees Tanka, pursuant to the orders from Court which are yet in force.—
And as no good can be expected without having a Force at the Barr to back our demands Victoria King George & Princess Caroline be forthwith got ready to proceed to the Barr together with the Defiance prahm who will be great use in running over the Barr with Ant Ships whose Treasure it may be thought proper to prevent being landed.—
It being then taken into Consideration in which manner to fix the payment of the Debt, It is Judged Equally necessary for the Intt of our Honble Masters to prevent the Scidees being driven to Extremities as it is to secure the Debt, However we wou'd recover it as soon as their Circumstances wou'd possibly admit.— If we get Forty Thousand rupees This Year & by proper Assignment & Notes both from the Scidees Vakeel & Surat Govr can secure the payment of the remainder of the Debt by equal sums in two Years more We hope our Honble Masters will approve of our proceedings as we are persuaded the Scidees cannot afford to part with more It is therefore agreed to give the Gentlemen at Surat a Latitude to adjust the payment of the Debt in this manner.—

Public Department Diary, 11, pp. 161-2.

No. 108

To,

The Honble John Horne Esqr

President & Govr of Bombay &c Council.—

Honble Sir & Sirs

In obedience to your commands of the 4th Instant The 5th at night I embarked on Board the Dolphin & arrived at Gingerah the 7th in the Afternoon I was immediately introduced to Sciddee Yaucob Caun, to whom I deliver'd the Honble presidents letter & presents: I found him very much indisposed & It not being the Custom to enter upon business the first visit, after some General Compliments I retired.—

I had afterwards opportunitys to press the *Companys demand, & Sciddee Mussoots removal from Surat /the two points given in charge/ on the Caun/ both in person and by Sciddee Sumbool the second person in Gingerah, who has the Command of the Fort & Soldiery, & is highly respected & much trusted by the Caun himself, as well as by the whole Body of Sciddees.

With regard to Sciddee Mussoot both the Caun & Sciddee Sumbool assured me, their Affairs wou'd not admit his being recalled from Surat having no one besides him, Capable of adjusting and recovering their Demands on that Government, but they promised me he should be enjoin'd to give Mr. Lambton satisfaction for any past behaviour; & to make his future conduct entirely suitable to the Amity that subsists between the two States.—

Tho' The Caun wou'd not pay any part of the Sciddees Debt to the Company in ready Money It was with the greatest difficulty & after the warmest Expostulation, he was prevailed upon to give any order upon the Surat Government to satisfy it out of their Tanka. He cou'd not forbear expressing some Jealousy, that the English had again some design upon the Tanka; and for that end we wanted to have our Name creep into the Kings Books: adding that the Tanka was their Chief Support which indeed is true.—

I thought it my Duty to endeavour to remove his jealousy in this respect, as well as his resentment, for some Incidents that have given him a good deal of Disgust, particularly his agents having been several times arrested here; His Effects mortgaged, & a Grab of his lately sold by the Court, for the payment of a private Debt/ But I should by no means make him Comprehend, that the English Laws were just and reasonable in Compelling a person of his High rank, to pay to inferior people; the Debts he had contracted for the service of his State.—

The Caun having at last consented to pay the Company's Debt, by Assignment upon the Surat Government; at the same time, gave me to understand, it would be impossible for him to discharge it all in One Year

But the whole amounting to upwards of One Hundred Thousand Rupees he proposed paying Twenty Five Thousand rupees p. Annum; being the most he said the Exigencies of his State would admit of & for securing these payment he only offer'd one Order for Twenty Five Thousand rupees this Year, & the others Annually, as the payments became due.—

After Insisting some time on present payment by Degrees I lower'd my Demand, till I agreed to accept of the Money, in two equal payments, one to be made this Year, the other next provided full and possitive orders on the Surat Government for both Sums; were immediately delivered me.—

I will not trouble your Honour &c with a detail of the arguments I used to bring the Caun to make such offers I could accept on this occasion as well as before; I urged in the strongest and most effecting terms; The Generosity and Disinterestedness of the English Friendship; The number and greatness of his obligations; with the unsuitable returns he had made the Companys long Forbearance & the Necessity the Hoble President lay under, to secure the Debt now. The Tenderness shewn in my being sent down, to accept of this asignment when the President had the Kings order on the Surat Government, for payment, but above all, The Certain ruin his state wou'd be involved in; shou'd his refusal, oblige the Presidt to pursue such measures for the recovery of the Companys Just Demand as might occasion an open rupture between us.—

The only answer of Weight to all this was, the pressure of their Necessitys In particular Sciddee Sumbool assured me, Their Charges at Court for obtaining the Annual Order of their Tanka amounted to Fifty or Sixty Thousand rupees that the Deductions at Surat were as much besides present, & Charges of recovering it, which were very considerable, adding that last Year only Ten thousand rupees of their Tanka came to Gingerah for the payment of the Garrison & other Disbursement and that there are at present Bills outstanding on Sciddee Mussoot, for Sixty Thousand rupees He further urged that they are deeply in arrears to the Troops they are obliged to maintain, to defend the small remains of their Territories from Badgerows & Sambajees Depredations and that their only hopes for this Years subsistance; were in the produce of these grounds & the small matter that might be remaining to them out of the Tanka.—

Finding the Caun Immoveable I sent a message desiring my leave to wait on him to take my leave: believing this, if anything would induce him to advance But herein I was mistaken; for he dismissed me with less concern & management, than befitted the Importance of my Commission; at his obligation to the Company On taking leave I let him know, that his conduct wou'd oblige the presidt to pursue such measures as shou'd be esteem'd most proper, for securing and recovering the Companys Demand: Which however disagreeable, he must not take amiss, as the blame lay entirely at his own door.—

The I might leave no means unessay'd, to obtain a more satisfactory answer: after I had parted from the Caun, It was another Conference with Sciddee Sumbool. I expostulated with him in severe terms on the Cauns Ingratitude; the cold regard with which he treated my message; being an unworthy return for presidents tenderness towards him.— He still pleaded their Necessities, for not complying with the terms I had proposed and the Cauns Illness for the hasty manner of my Dismiss.— In conclusion I told him I was going off; but, if my message the Caun would desire it, I would come ashore in the Morning.— In the meantime if he cou'd prevail with the Caun, to give me Three Orders on the Surat Government, for the Discharge of the Companys Demands; In three Equal annual Payments: Tho' I had not power to accept of those terms; yet on such an offer I woud dispatch an Express to Bombay, with a Letter in their favour, Both he & Sciddee Yoore (one of their Chief Officers) promised to press this upon the Caun; I waited till two oClock in the Afternoon when instead of such a Message, the Caun sent me his letter to the Honble President.—

With regard to the Sciddees Debts, to private persons under the English protection: I cou'd only obtain a general promise; that they shou'd be discharged by little & little; as their Circumstances wou'd permit, Neither the Caun nor Sciddee Sumbool made any demand for the Succours sent hither on Chimnajees. Taking Tannah: Nor indeed, did they make the least mention of them, And as I thought the Company had already paid the full value of their Service; & was Apprehensive, their Pretensions would run very high; I did not esteem it my Obligation, to make them any offers on that Account.—

That Sciddee Yaucob Caun does not appear to have those Impressions of Gratitude to the Company deserve being Young, warm and pretty much sharpen'd as well as peevish with his sickness; & not always govern'd by the best advice: Yet the thinking men among the Sciddees Seem to have a gratefull sence of our Friendship & readily acknowledge how necessary the Continuance of it is, for their preservation and I must in Justice to the Caun, own, that notwithstandg the Disagrreableness of my Message; I was treated with all the forms of respect I cou'd make any pretensions to; by himself as every one else.—

I have omitted to mention above the Sciddee Sumbool in our last Conference, told me the Caun was willing to deliver into my hands, the two first Orders on the Surat Government; by which means he said, Fifty Thousand rupees of their Debt wou'd be discharged, in little more than a Year. I understand the Caun has made the same offers in his Letter to the Honble presidt as were made to me; & which he Express'd a Strong belief wou'd be accepted. It remains with your Honr &c to consider in what manner they ought to be received; And If rejected what

other probable method to secure the Honble Companys Demand will be attended with the fewest Inconviniences to this presidency.—

I sailed from Gingerah the 12th Instant in the afternoon & landed here the Evening of the 14th.

I am with the highest regard
HONBLE SIR & SIRS
Your most faithfull, and
most obedient Humble Servant

BOMBAY
The 21st July, 1738.

Thomas Stonestreet.

Public Department Diary, 11, pp. 164-7.

No. 109

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 23rd AUGUST, 1738.

IMPORTED the King George and princess Caroline Galleys from Surat by whom we reced a Letter from the Chief and Factors there dated the 17th August, advising That fearing the Juddah Ships wou'd arrive before the recet of our Orders for adjusting matters with the Government they resolved to endeavour the obtaining a Sum from the Sciddees Vakeel in part of their Debt to the Honble Company; He made several fair promises, & two of our Galivats arriving the 9th the Towns people were alarmed & Gulam Mahmud sent a Message to the Duan to settle matters between them and the Sciddees On the 13th Instant Sciddee Mussoot paid the Chief a Visit & offer'd to pay Twenty Five thousand rupees but nothing was agreed on, but on the 15th he & the Duan coming together they settled the payment of Forty Thousand rupees this Year & they have got an asignment on the Governmt to be paid out of the Sciddee's share of the Customs they to receive two Thirds & our Honble Masters One Third which the Gentn hope will clear the Sum by March next. They say the Sciddee wou'd neither give or the Governmt accept an assignment for anything to be paid next year & it was very fortunate they thus concluded the matter, as in the Evening of the very same day News was brought to Town of Sciddee Abdul Ramans death which if known sooner might have prevented on their fixing on any sum.

Public Department Diary, 11, p. 193.

No. 110

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 25th AUGUST, 1738.

Mr. Stonestreet presents to the Board an Accot. of his Charges in going to Gingerah, being for presents to the Sciddee's servants Codjee

&c who went with him and the Expence of provisions amounting to rupees One Hundred & Thirty.— Also Capt. Bagwell's Bill for two pair of pistols given the Caun and Sciddee Samboul rupees ninety ordered that these Sums be paid & carried to Charges Extraordinary.—

Public Department Diary, 11, p. 196.

No. 111

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 25th OCTOBER, 1738.

Answering your Honr &c Commands & those in the 49 para p. Nassaw concerning the Sciddees debt, we say we are glad your Honr &c approve of, the settlement we have made for this Season which Sum we make no doubt of receiving altho' the Sciddees share of the Customs may not amount to their Tanka what therefore was observed by us in a late address, was meant in regard to the smallness of the first payment, & not that there was any danger that the Sum stipulated would be made good to us, for the next Year we will in due time endeavour; with your Honour &c permission to settle as large a sum as possible, and we hope this Debt may be recovered without much noise and contention.

Public Department Diary, 11, pp. 267-8.

No. 112

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 8th JANUARY, 1738-9.

The President then acquaints the Board that last Night /the 7th/ He had reced a Letter from the Sciddees mentioning the advice given him of an Engagement between our Fleet and that of Sambajee Angrias: and that the same came confirm'd to him by other Hands: without the recitall of any particulars to be depended on. It is then remarked that the Com himself has omitted forwarding a written Information of this action concerning which it is therefore agreed to dispatch him a Letter by an Express Boat requiring full advices as well thereof, as of the time. He may Judge his Water provisions may hold out to.

Public Department Diary, 12, p. 14.

No. 113

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 21st JANUARY, 1738-9.

About Eight at Night a boat came on Board with a Compliment from the Sciddee and to know If I had a Letter to send your Honr. to Bombay

We were then consulting what we shou'd do stay or go upon the Crize; so considering we had so little water in the Fleet and Capt Eaton wanting to stop for his Leak, and it being the Lower time of the Moon for smooth Water and the Weather likely to be fair and little Winds were soon to clean our Ships and get what Water we cou'd in Twenty or forty Eight Hours & to get some fresh Provisons for our people several of them being down with the Scurery on Board every Ship, from the Sciddee with our Compliments to him and to let him know we designed to stay there to clean our Ships & get Water and in case he wou'd be so good to let us have some fresh provisons on paying for the same. We shou'd own ourselves greatly oblig'd to him, That Capt. Sandilands would wait on him in the morning & in case he cou'd help us with Boats to Water our Ships He would lay us under a Double Obligation.

Public Department Diary, 12, p. 33.

No. 114

SURAT............ MARCH, ANNO 1740-1.

Lr. FROM BOMBAY

MONDAY 16

This morning the Chief reexamined the Master & several of the People belonging to the Tyger Gallevat, when there appear'd several material circumstances to Induce him to believe, that the Sciddees had too great a hand in the capture upon which he immediately sent the Vackeel to Sciddee Mossoot to demand the restitution of her, with all her rigging Stores & otherwise, He should be obliged to represent the same to our Superiors at Bombay, who at last confessed his People had Joined Chanroy, but promised to send for the Gallevat & restore her to us with every thing that was aboard and that at the same time he would severely reprimand the Governing Sciddee at Muffdafarabad & take, all possible precautions to prevent the like happening in future.

Surat Factory Diary, 5, p. 105.

No. 115

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 3rd APRIL, 1741.

Capt. Walker to be sent to Rajahpore.

The President then observes to the Board that continuing Our people at Underee answers no end but to increase the Sciddees Debt and that withdrawing our Cannon and Stores would make a considerable deduction in what due from that Government, which should we enter upon precipi-

tates without consulting the Sciddees at Rajahpore would afford them matter of Disgust. He proposes to send so soon as a Vessel can be spared, Capt. Samuel Walker to discuss this matter with them and bring it about upon amicable terms WHICH THE BOARD APPROVED.

Public Department Diary, 14A, p. 184.

No. 116

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 28th APRIL, 1741.

Instructions to Capt. Walker.

To

Capt. Samuel Walker,

Sir,

We having some depending concerns with the Sciddee Government necessary to be treated, and to what end some persons must be appointed, which you from your knowledge and Experience in the Customs and manners of those people, We esteem the most proper, and shall therefore now proceed to give you the necessary Instructions with regard to the Service you are deputed on.

The Bombay and Restoration Grabs are ordered to attend you to Rajahpore, on your arrival at which place you are to represent to the Governing Sciddee that as the people now belonging to us at Underee are of no Advantage or benefit to either State, and that their being permitted to be withdrawn will by so much decrease the expence now charged to the Sciddees Account for their pay and provisions, and as the number are so small we conceive they cannot be esteemed considerable for strengthening the Place, The bringing away the Cannon Stores &c now in the Fortress would still make a great deduction in the Ballance from them; This last point we shall be glad to find you are at (*torn*) to obtain their compliance with thro' any Arguments you may advance of the present situation of Affairs, and the improbability of its being attacked by Angria which we keep our Marine Force but should you perceive an inflexibility in them against this proposition, We would not have persisted it so farr as to give them umbrage and for the recall of our People we hope you will without much difficulty induce them to acquiesce in.—

You are then to sett before them in the clearest Light the Ready Assistance afforded from this place towards the Defence of Underee as well as supplies of Ammunition &c both to Rajahpore and Anjwell when attacked by the Morattas, which give rise to the Debt, to Our Honble Masters, of which, a great part remain unpaid and due, how incumbent it is on them to render a quick and full discharge, for the Succour so chearfully contributed, which we must observe can only be secured by another assign-

ment on their Tanka from the Surat Government which we recommend to you to procure either for the whole or in certain fixed payments, and if such an instrument can be obtained we shall esteem it an acceptable piece of service.

The Sciddees, Our Merchants complain, have this Season stopt several Boats furnished with Our pass and Coloured and some unusual and Extraordinary demands insisted on before they were released a List of the Vessels with the respective Sums paid we enclose for your notice and procuring satisfaction as well as the Sciddees solemn promise not to attempt the like in future, and here we cannot pass over the manifest and open violation offered us by their commanding Officer in Muffdefarabaud who joined with the Colley Rovers, actually seized the Tyger Gallivat, in her return from Persia and tho' on application to Sciddee Mussoot we learn she is returned yet we must (*torn*) they not only resent this behaviour of the Officer, but effectually remedy the same happening hereafter, as a repetition of such a conduct will evidently tend to interrupt that Harmony and good Correspondence we profess ourselves so ready to preserve.

SOME FURTHER INTIMATION TO CAPT. WALKER.

Though you have already Instructions from myself and Council under the 28th Instant touching your present deputation to the Sciddees, yet I shall just remark some necessary points Vizt.—

As it is proper you should carry a present to the Head Scyddee Sambull his second the subsequent things are provided to be given as you think most suitable.—

Two Ps. of Fine Gold Chints value	90 - ,, - ,,
Two Chests of Rose Water	
Two Fuzzees	50 - ,, - ,,
Two small Musquettons	30 - ,, - ,,

What little gratuitys may be necessary for the servants about the Scyddees, you will bestow in the manner You esteem most consistent which must be left to your discretion.

The charge defending Underee including Pay to Our men now there, and Provisions amounts to, nearest One Thousand nine hundred Rupees annuall, which matter your Instructions points out to you, but I think that should the Scyddees not consent to our withdrawing our Gunns &c, yet You should prevail on them to our having the Granadoes and such like articles that are not proper to remain in their hands.

By Our Present Calculate the Scyddees Debt to the Company which includes the value of the Stores at Underee amounts to nearest Forty Thousand Rupees but in case they do agree to our possessing said Stores,

which we shall take at the value they were rated, then a considerable sum will be deducted and for the remainder they must be pressed to give us an assignment on the Tanka of Surat which is hinted to you in the Instructions.

There has been a rumour that the Scyddees and Sambajee have lately come to a good understanding with an Intent to execute certain projects against Monajee Angria, the Morattas or us, You must therefore endeavour to get at the reality of what has passed, as it may be of service to us to know.

Your own judgement will suggest the needfull, should the Scyddees, start the subject, of Our appearing as Mediators between the Portuguese and Morattas, in the Cession of Choule; which you know in fact a point we could not withdraw from without totally leaving the Portuguese remaining possessions to the extremest hazard, through their inability to defend them.

I am,
Sir,
Your most Affectionate Friend

29th April, 1741.

Stephen Law.

No. 117

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 11th MAY, 1741.

Samuel Walker's letter regarding the affairs of the Sciddee of Gingerau.

Agreeable to Your Honour and Council's Orders dated the 28th, and another order signed by Your Honour alone the 29th of April last we proceeded to Ginjeraw, on arrival there we were introduced to Sciddee Sambull whose it was easy to observe the whole stress of the Government lyes in his hands, to whom we delivered Your Honour's presents and letters. After we had been with Sciddee Sambull we were introduced to Sciddee Hossein, who lives in his Father's House, appears at their Suther in the Evening to receive the Salam from the Officers and Seapoys, but his Levies are very small both in number and quality, compared to what is paid to Sciddee Sambull, after we had waited on them both and complements over, I send word to Sciddee Sambull, I desired to talk with him in the morning I waited on him, when I acquainted him with business your Honour and Council desired me to import to him. I begun first with your desire for an Order to Surat on the Tanka for the remaining part of the Companie's Debt, here I beg leave to do the man Justice, who without any arguments of mine exprest himself with as much Gratitude, as far as words goes, as could be desired, saying it was great concern to him the misfortunes of their state having lost the greatest and better part of their country, and what small part remained, the Morattas had half of

their produce and that they had been obliged ever since the commencing of the warr to keep a great body of forces for defending Govelcott (a frontier Garrison at Dabull River) than their distressed condition would afford, that place being continually in trouble and besieged at this time by a body of Twelve Thousand Men, I told him Your Honour & Co were very sensible of the great straits their state had to contend with, and that they might be assured you bore an affectionate regard for their nation, But as this Debt was publick money and as such to be accounted for, you could not evade sending me to press for the payment, By an order on the Tanka at Surat, in reply he said, their nation never would, at least he never should forget the friendly assistance they received from the English, when none of their Neighbours did assist them (by which the Dutch arose) he would at all hazards and under all their Difficulties give an Order on the Tanka as soon as he heard from Sciddee Mussoot which had been paid and what remained.—

Next I acquainted him with Your Honour and Council's proposals of withdrawing the men you kept at Underee by which a charge of Rs. 1900 would be saved to them annually, and that you would take back the Artillery and another Stores and give their Account Credit (if not broke or damaged) at the same price they were first charged in the Account, in answer to this he said they should very willingly have defrayed the annual charge of the Men's Pay and Provisions, but since it was Your Honour's and Council's desire to withdraw them he acquiesced and would send an order to Sciddee Battall accordingly. As to the Guns, Ammunition and Stores when he heard from Underee he would resolve on what should be kept or returned, I shewed him an Account of what Stores now remained at Underee when he immediately resolved to keep the Gunns, Shott and Powder, All the other Stores he said he would order Sciddee Battall to return, I told him Your Honour and Council did not desire any of the Stores to endanger the safety of the Place, but the more they returned the less the Debt would be of which the Gunpowder and Ball was the Major part.—

I next acquainted him with the complaint of the Merchants being plundered by the Gallivats of Angerwell & Gingera, to which he answered he never gave any orders to the Officers of his Gallivats to meddle with our Merchant Boats subjects to his country and went to Bombay for Salt and did not bring it to his but carried it to Sambajees country, To his and the Sciddees detriment and Sambajees advantage, I told him I had got a List of Particulars, which would give him a clearer Light into the Affair. I told him Your Honour and Co. did not move this to him so much on of their value sustained by our Merchants, But that it equally concerned the Credit of their Government as it did the Government of Bombay that he should disown the conduct of his Officers, and make satisfaction to

Our Merchants for what they had been sufferers, He esteemed to be sensible it would be very much to the discredit of their state not to have a strict inquiry made, and found the complaints to be true, and strenuously wrote to Sciddee Satt at Angerwell, who as I heard, little regards his orders (for want of their forces) being duly paid and promises on receipt of his answer I might depend upon satisfaction being made to our Merchants.

I next acquainted him with the complaint of the Officers at Majafarabad, he replyed he was glad the Gallivat was cleared, by applyg. to Sciddee Mussoot, and that if the Officer to whom he then wrote had been necessary or assistant to the taking of the Tyger he should not escape his resentment, He said a Servant of Sciddee Mussoot's a few days ago came from Surat, who acquainted him on Sciddee Mussoot's writing to the Officer of Majaffarabad to demand the Tyger of the Sanganians and on that Officer's writing they refused to clear her, which made him march with a body of four hundred men, which obliged them to deliver her up, and he said that Your Honour & Co might depend on his giving the proper orders to the Officer of Majaffarabad for preventing or meddling with any Vessell subject to the English in future.

On my talking again with Sciddee Sambull I found he did not chuse to give the order on the Tanka 'till he heard from Surat, I proposed to him to send one of his writers to Bombay to adjust all accounts there as at Surat nothing is further known than what sums has been paid to Sciddee Mussoot, But that at Bombay all accounts might be adjusted when they were, & credit given for the Stores returned from Underi, He would then give an order on the Tanka for the Ballance that should appear to be due, and his promise to me? I desired he would confirm in his letter to your Honour. To which he very readily agreed.— This method I hope will be satisfactory as the Accounts may be settled long before the Season for the Payment of the Tanka becomes due.

Public Department Diary, 14B, pp. 266-7.

No. 118

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 11th MAY, 1741.

I acquainted the Sciddee with Your Honour's Orders to this Garrison, and the several Ports round this Island, not to suffer any of the Seapoys coming from the neighbouring Powers to land upon this Island armed, and however well assured Your Honour was of their Friendship to this Place yet you could not exempt their people from being subject to this Order, which could not be done, without the other neighbouring Powers taking exceptions, He said he had receivd a Letter some Months Ago

from your Honour acquainting him with the Order and Regulation you had issued out to be observed in future, with Your reasons therefore, He said he was very glad that your Honour had made such Regulations, and that he was well acquainted with the situation of Bombay, That it was a place of Trade where many people resort under the denomination of Merchants from all Parts of the Continent; and that it behoves the Government of this place strictly to observe in future the Regulations Your Honour had made, and that for his part he was so far from taking it amiss as far as it related to his people that he was glad of it, as it tended to the security of his Friends.

I am.—

Honble Sir, & Sirs,

Your Honour's Most Obedient & Obliged Humble Servt.

Samuel Walker.

Public Department Diary, 14B, pp. 271-2.

No. 119

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 15th MAY, 1741.

Capt. Walker's Report concerning His Deputation.

Capt. Samuel Walker who as noted in the Diary returned from his Deputation to the Sciddees, delivers a Report of his Transactions which is read and ordered to be entered hereafter, on which the President informs the Board that in discourse with said Captain learning the Sciddees has consented to return certain Stores &c. from Underee as also withdrawing our people, he immediately give Orders and appointed a vessell to convey them hither which having been accordingly executed a List of the several Articles received is now laid on the Table being as follows.—

.... Stores recd.

.... from Undery.

And as the Sciddees have in Company with Captain Walker sent their Agents to see the examining and settling their Accounts, Directed that the Accomptant do out of hand adjust the same with those people and as it appears but reasonable to allow for such of the Stores above specified that are not damaged, the same price as they stand charged to them, IT IS AGREED to, and Credit must in course be given to their Account.

Public Department Diary, 14B, p. 255 middle; p. 256 end; and p. 257 beginning.

No. 120

SURAT ....SEPTEMBER, ANNO 1741.

DIFFERENCES in the Sciddees Account as given in by Sciddee Mossoot Vizl.

Sciddee Yacob Caun at Gingerah advises Sciddee Mossoot of a Difference of Rs. 1000 in the account without Explaining any Article

		Rs. P.
....		1000-
Sciddee Mossoot says he shou'd be Credited for the Treasure recd. at Bombay	74250,,-	
Whereas he is only credited	74200,,-	
		50,,-
and notwithstanding he was accquainted that there was a Difficiency of Rs. 50 in the 15 Chests of Treasure sent to Bombay he refuses to allow it...........		
Sciddee Mossoot says the account Stores returned from Undery shou'd amount to	1192,,19	
But he is only Credited...........	1181,,19	
		11,,-
The Difference being a 11 Rupees which he says is for one Muskett & Buyonett that was returned & omitted in said account.		
Sciddee Mossoot also affirms that Doudjee Noqua a Sunher has made good at Bombay	6500,,-	
Whereas he is Credited no more than.........	6341,,85	
		158,,2,,15
The Sciddee Accquaints us that there are Customs due on some goods sent from Bombay to Gingerah but as to any other particulars he dont inform us tho' he expects to have Credit for the same being for Rupees		139,,
	Rupees	1358,,2,,5.

No. 121

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 18th SEPTEMBER, 1741.

The Chief & Factors at Surat—Their Accepting of another Assignment on the Government. The Balance of Sciddees Account considered.

For the reasons recited we approve of their accepting another assignment on the Govt even for the sum of Rupees 25000, y Ballance of the Sciddees A/c as stated by Sciddee Mossoot, the difference whereof compared with Ours amounts to Rupees Thirteen hundred Fifty eight, Two Quarters, Fifteen Reas, we are of opinion will not be contested by his Superours at Gingerrah, as by a Letter from the Governing Sciddee to the President under the 16th ultimo, he expresses a full acknowledgement of the justness of the accounts tendered him to whom the President will therefore now again apply for such an explicit order as may prevent all further disputes or obstacles to a speedy discharge.

Public Department Diary, 14C, p. 504.

No. 122

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED MARCH, 1741-2.

Nor to this time they had not Reced anything of the Sciddees Assignment notwithstanding our Sollicitations.

Public Department Diary, 15, p. 129.

No. 123

SURAT .... APRIL, ANNO 1741-2.

TO

THE HONBLE COURT OF DIRECTORS.
FOR AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED COMPANY
OF MERCHANTS OF ENGLAND AND TRADING
TO THE EAST INDIES.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS

This place is in perfect peace tranquility and our business carried on without any interruption and we have the pleasure of acquainting Your Honours of our having got a third assignment, on this Government for the Ballance of the Sciddees Debt which we hope will be cleared by the latter end of September as we are daily pressing them for that purpose, and including the Piscash which we shall keep in our own hands the Ballance will be about fifteen Thousand Rupees.

The Maurattas have taken a large ship bound to Juddah belonging to this place & worth between & four Lack of Rupees, but we presume they may restore the Ship & Cargoe for some Consideration, as we are of opinion they have taken this step to render themselves more formidable to the traders of this Port, and by that means to enjoy the duties on Jaggir which the Sciddees are now in possession off who are so meserably reduced that they are neither able to protect the trade of this Port or their

own Territories, but in case the Maurattas should not so immediately succeed in acquiring this subsidy they will however oblidge the Merchants to take their pass.

Surat Factory Diary, 5, p. 169.

No. 124

SURAT .... APRIL, ANNO 1741-2.

THURSDAY 8th

THIS afternoon received a note from Sciddee Mossoot in answer to one wrote him in the Morning but the Chief desiring we would forego receiving any thing this month out of the Customs alledging the necessity he was under of paying some people his master had sent up here, and being obliged to send down some money as the Morattas were become troublesome to which the Chief sent him word he could not consent to it, and that he must be obliged to acquaint the Honble the President thereof.

Surat Factory Diary, 5, pp. 166-7.

No. 125

SURAT .... APRIL, ANNO 1741-2.

THURSDAY 8

THIS morning the Chief wrote a Roka to Sciddee Mussoot understanding he had been with the Duan, & Stopt any more money to be paid us on account of the third assignment, which being very unreasonable desired he would forbear doing of it, but the Contrary press the Duan for a speedy discharge.

WROTE a Roka this morning to the Duan setting forth that as yett we had recd, no more than Two Thousand Rupees on account the Sciddees third assignment and that we were informed Sciddee Mossoot had forbid him paying us any more but as the Governour had accepted of the assignment we should look upon him as our pay master & therefore hoped he would not pay the Sciddee what properly belonged to us.

At noon recd. a Roka from the Duan in reply to that wrote him this morning wherein he says he is very ready to pay us what is come into his hands on account of the Sciddee & that he shall detain the same till we have adjusted with Sciddee Mossoot.

Surat Factory Diary, 5, p. 167.

No. 126

SURAT .... JUNE, ANNO 1741-2.

SATURDAY 5th

The Sciddees and Assignment being Compleated the Chief this day gave him a receipt for the same, as follows, as he had one of the same Tenour for the first Assignment of forty Thousand.

WHEREAS it was stipulated and agreed upon the 20th day of January 1739/40 with Sciddee Moossoot Agent for the Sciddees in Surat and the English Chief & Council in behalf of the Honble United English East India Company that the said Sciddee Moosoot should pay in the space of one Year from the above date to the said Chief & Council the sum of forty Thousand Rupees as part of payment of what the Sciddees are Indebted to the said Honble United English East India Company, and whereas the said sum of forty Thousand Rupees has been paid into their Cash at Sundry payments by the Government in Conformity to Sciddee Mossoots assignment on Teg Beg Caun for the above sum dated according to the Mahomedan stile the first day of Ziccau in the year 1152 therefore this writing is given Sciddee Moosoot as a receipt for the said sum of forty Thousand Rupees to which the Secretary hath by an Order affixed the Honble United English East India Companys seal dated Surat Factory the 5th Day of June 1742.

1740			
May	31	Received into cash	2000 ,,- -
June	7	Do.	1500 ,,- -
July	5	Do.	1000 ,,- -
	18	Do.	500 ,,- -
Sepr.	12	Do.	10000 ,,- -
Novr.	13	Do.	2000 ,,- -
	16	Do.	950 ,,- -
	17	Do.	375 ,,- -
	25	Do.	565 ,,- -
Decr.	1	Do.	500 ,,- -
	3	Do.	1000 ,,- -
	7	Do.	500 ,,- -
	8	Do.	350 ,,- -
	12	Do.	425 ,,- -
1740/1	15	Do.	1500 ,,- -
	25	Do.	400 ,,- -
Januy.	4	Do.	1500 ,,- -
	20	Do.	1500 ,,- -

Febry.	10	Received into cash	278 ,,- -
1741	25	Do.	1500 ,,- -
March	29	Do.	500 ,,- -
July	23	Do.	10000 ,,- -
	31	Do.	1157 ,,- -
			Rupees (*torn*)

Surat Factory Diary, 5, pp. 205-6.

No. 127

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 27th AUGUST, 1742.

The President communicates translate of a Lre from Sciddee Yaucoob Caun being as follows.—

"I am day and night Meditating how to perpetuate the Friendship hitherto subsisting between my Family and the Honble Company and from the said Company have we recd remarkable tokens of Good will, for on Occasion when Warlike Attempts were under taken against Our Place we never failed of meeting with a ready Assistance from Bombay. At present the Enemy is preparing to attack our Fort of Anjenwell, and should this design be carried to Execution I do not doubt of Experiencing the same Offices from you as formerly.— You have been advised of our wanting Guns for the Grab now building and for which Sciddee Mussoot had applied to you, I now send Mulna Omar Our Servant to confer with you & from whom you will be apprised of all the Particulars."

The president having Conferred with the Messanger he finds that besides the Guns mentioned in the Sciddees Lre they Expect from us a Loan of Money & Assistance against the Enemy, but with regard to the Guns the Board apprehend were we to comply it would create us Trouble with the Morattas would Expect the Like and it may be remarked they have not yet repaid what they owe for the Succour formerly affording them, Tho' so farr as annoying the Enemy by means of our Vessels we shall readily contribute whenever opportunity offers and to this Purport the President is desired to answer the Sciddees Messanger.—

Public Department Diary, 15, pp. 395-6.

No. 128

SURAT .... DECEMBER, 1743.

WEDNESDAY 7th.

SCIDY & HEAD MERCHANTS TO GO TO THE DURBAR.

THIS day the Scidy, all the principal Merchants of the City, with the Vackeels and the Brokers of the several nations trading here, were

called to the Durbar, when the Governor Teg Beg Caun told them he had received from Court, Husbul Hokums under the Vizers Seal directed to the Scidy to the English, to the Dutch & French, and to the City Merchants in general confirming him to his Government and directing them to aid and assist him in case of necessity against Abdul Azeez Khan (alias Muckboul Alum) who had published a ficticious Hubul Hokum in his own favour............ Mr. Fraser being called thither, we sent him, and he received that directed to the Chief which he translated as follows:—

....

This order we have great reason to believe is forged here it being very apparent both by the Seal and the Style. The Governor and his brother Suffdir Khan told the Scidy and Merchants in general that as such orders had come from Court; if any person was discovered to correspond with or aid or assist directly or indirectly the said Abdul Azeez Khan or any of his Dependents, they should forfeit their lives & effects. At last he told them he would send them a paper to be signed, which they refused to do, it was plain they acted contrary to the Courts orders and were friends to the enemy. He said he did not desire them to assist him with money or goods, he only wanted their inclinations and such of them as had power and forces in constant pay, it would be no additional charge to them to aid him. By this he hinted at the Scidy, who at last by means of threats and promises, declared he would join him in case of necessity with what forces he had...........

Surat Factory Diary, 6, pp. 281-3.

No. 129

SURAT .... MAY, 1744.

LETTER FROM B'BAY.

RECD. a letter from the Hon'ble President and Council of Bombay dated the 11th Instant, acknowledging the receipt of our respects of the 26th Ultimo. and 3rd Instant. They direct us to send down an Account of what supplied the detachments on board the Gallivats and not to purchase any more Chunam, but if any remained to send it thither. They enclosed us an attested copy of a letter from Sciddee Yaucood to the late President in which he acknowledged the Ballance due to the Company to be Rs. 38558,, 3,,39. and that from the payments since made both by their Accounts and those sent from hence there remained due Rs. 2401,,54, they therefore direct us to shew that letter to Sciddee Massoot and advise him they insisted on his compliance.

Surat Factory Diary, 6, pp. 364-5.

No. 130

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 31st JULY, 1744.

Lre from Sciddee Mossoot to the President.

The President received a letter from Sciddee Mossoot at Surat requesting a Grab belonging to him now at this place may be permitted to proceed thither after the rains; and that on arrival of the shipping from the red sea he would discharge the Ballance due to the Honble Company of Rupees Two thous. four hundred and one, & fifty four pice. (Rs. 2401,, 54)

Public Department Diary, 17, p. 23.

No. 131

REPLY TO THE LETTER OF 31st, DATED 3rd AUGUST, 1744.

The President intentions the substance of Sciddee Mossoots Letter entered in the Diary under the 31st ultimo. and the Chief and Factors at Surat must be directed to acquaint him that on his performing his promise of discharging the Honble Companys Debt, We shall readily permit the Grab to proceed according to his request.

Public Department Diary, 17, p. 236.

No. 132

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 13th FEBRUARY, 1745.

Siddee Beyloll of Underee letter from him to President.

At A Consultation Present

The Honble William Wake Esq Prest. & Govr.

The Wo: Chas: Whitehill Esq, William Sedgwicke, John Morley,

George Dudley, Hugh Howard, John Munro,

Thomas Marsh at Mahim.

Read and Approved our last Consultation.

The President acquaints the Board that he this day received a letter from Sciddee Beyllol at Underee by a Messanger from thence acquainting

him that Island was in imminent danger of falling into Toolajees ,or Monackjees hands and requesting an immediate aid may be sent to debar them from it and that we would furnish them with some necessary Stores in payment for which they will give a Bill on Sciddee Mossoot at Surat amounting to two thousand, two hundred and ninety five and fifty two reas (2295,, -,, 52) and as they may have occasion for a further supply a Grab lays here valued by our Master Carpenter at Rupees five thousand five hundred as security for the payment of the present expence.

On recourse to the Registers it is observed that Sciddees made the like application to President Cowan and Council Anno 1733 in consultation of the 13th July wherein the matter was maturely deliberated upon and judged to be of greater importance to the Hon'ble Company to preserve that island in the possession of our friends and as our Hon'ble Masters in their letter of the 11th March 1734/5 per ship Scarborough approved of the measures then taken it is unanimously resolved the like force of one hundred fifty soldiers be sent thither whereof fifty are to be Europeans and one hundred Topasses exclusive of petty Officers also ten of the Gunkoot crew all under the command of James Sterling and Ensign Hugh Cammeron to undertake the Defence thereof under the English flag.

But as the pay and provisions of this Detachment will amount to three thousand Rupees per month in discharging which the Sciddee may not be punctual any more than he was heretofore on the like occasion it is therefore further agreed to be acquainted that in case he is not in a condition to defend the Island at or before the expiration of twelve months and pay all the charges we may be at in that time, then in such case the Hon'ble Company shall be at liberty to disperse of the Island to such Neighbouring power as they shall think most proper and that he pass a writing to this purport, which the messenger nowhere promises to obtain ...... (*torn*) ... . But it is rather to be wished the Sciddee could maintain his territories as he is a friend and check to both these powers.

Adjourned

(sd) W. Wake
Chas: Whitehall
W. Sedgwick
Geo: Dudley.

(sd) Francis Fowke
Dpy:

Hugh Howard
J. Munro.

Public Department Diary, 18A, pp. 118-21.

No. 133

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 30th MAY, 1745.

Military at Underi be reduced.

At a Consultation Present
The Hon'ble William Wake, Esq. Prest; & Govr,

George Dudley	Thomas Marsh
Hugh Howard	George Munro
The Wo: Chas: Whitehill Esqr. William Sedgewicke	Indisposed.

The season now being so very late as there is very little or no danger of any enemies invading the Island of Underee, therefore to save an unnecessary expence to the Sciddee it is agreed to reduce the Military there to on Ensigns Command Directed that provision & (*torn*) be sent them for the space of four months.

Public Department Diary, 18A, p. 247.

No. 134

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 14th MARCH, 1746.

Noquedah of the Sciddees Grab desires her release.

The President, Hon. William Wake acquaints the Board that on the Noquedah of the Sciddee Grab now in Port lately applying to him for Permission to carry her to Surat He had told him that Sciddee Mussots Backwardness in discharging the amount of his Bills made it necessary to detain the Grab as a security to the Hon'ble Company for his Performance upon which the Noquedah promised to write to his Master and press him to clear said Bills as soon as possible AGREED however that the Grab be stopt here until we know whether his writing produce any good effect.

Public Department Diary, 19A, p. 89.

No. 135

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 26th APRIL, 1746.

Sciddees Grab permitted to proceed to Surat on a proposal made by them to Mr. Hope.

The President, the Hon'ble William Wake Esqr. acquaints the Board that Sciddee Mussoot at Surat being in want of his Grab which

we detained here as part Security for the Payment of the Bills he sometime ago accepted Mr. Hope at the Sciddee's request had made a proposal in a Letter to him for us to permit the said Grab to proceed to Surat and in lieu thereof get the Gov. of Surat to accept of our Pishcash of 10,000 Rs. & his and the Customers Annual Bursunt of Rupees 2600 being paid him by Transfer on the Sciddees Tanka. Which being taken into Consideration, the Board AGREE in permitting the Grab to proceed to Surat.

AND here it is observed that notwithstanding the Sciddees are somewhat backward in discharging their Debt yet as the Expence of Assisting them to keep Undaree is now very small being now about Rupees 649,, 1,, 88, monthly it is Agreed That we continue helping them to preserve that Island from falling into the Morattas or either of the Angria's hands the ill Consequences of which to the Trade of this Place have been so often set forth in the course of our Registers that they need not here be repeated.

Public Department Diary, 19A, p. 162.

No. 136

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 1st JULY, 1746.

Sciddee Mussoot to be supplied with some guns for his Grab.

Sciddee Mussoot requesting to be supplied with six four Pounders and six six Pounder Iron Guns for the use of his Grab, The Storekeeper is DIRECTED to deliver them accordingly at the Rate of 18 Rupees P. Cwt. the Price charged Our own Inhabitants taking care duly to receive the amount before the Guns are deliver'd.

Public Department Diary, 19A, p. 253.

No. 137

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 5th AUGUST, 1746.

Surat Advices Read & Observation Thereon with regard to the Sciddee's Debt.

At a Consultation Present
The Honbl William Wake Esqr. Prest: & Govr.
The Wo: Wm. Sedgwicke Esqr.
Thomas Marsh
Robert Rawdon —— Richard Sanders
George Scott
Hugh Howard at Mahim.

Read and Approved our Last Consultation.

REPERUSED the Surat Advices of the 23rd June and 16th ulto as Pr Extracts in the Diary under the 25th Ultimo Whereupon it is observed that Sciddee Yaucoob Caun's Berat or Bill upon Sciddee Mussoot for Rupees twelve thousand nine hundred and thirteen three quarters and thirty six Reas was for the Balance of their Account to the 30th June 1745 exclusive of which we always understood the other two Bills for Rupees two thousand eight hundred ninety nine and eighty six reas to be as appears in our Letter to the Chief and Factors under the 19th September last. But admitting that Sciddee Mussoot might take it otherwise we don't see why he should demurr discharging the same, as since closure of the abovementioned A/c to the 30th of last June the Sciddees are in Arrears to the Honble Company Rupees six thousand eight hundred thirty two, two quarters and thirteen reas; besides we have and do continue to afford them supplies for the preservation of Underee RESOLVED therefore that a Letter be wrote to the Chief & Factors at Surat accordingly; and that they be directed to acquaint the Sciddee that we not only expect he will make a transfer to the Ho. Company of the Bursunt for Rupees two thousand six hundred, in like manner as he has done the Pishcash but propose some method for discharging the Remainder of their Debt: or we shall take our measures accordingly.

Public Department Diary, 19B, pp. 306-7.

No. 138

LETTER FROM BOMBAY.

WEDNESDAY, 12th AUGUST, 1746.

Received a Letter from the Honble President & Council of Bombay in which they acknowledged the receipt of our Letter of the 23rd. of June & 16th Ultimo & acquainted us that Scidee Yaucoot Caun his Bill upon Sciddee Mussoot for Rupees Twelve thousand Nine hundred Thirteen, three quarters & Thirty Sic Reas (12913,, 3,, 36) was for the Ballance of their Accot. to the 30th of June 1745 exclusive of which they always understood the others two Bills for Rupees Two Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety nine and Eighty Six Reas (2899,, 86) to be, but admitting Scidee Mossoot took it otherwise they wonder he should demurr discharging the same as closure of the abovementioned accot. the Sciddees were in arrears to the Honble Company Rupees Six thousand eight hundred thirty two, Two quarters & Thirteen Reas (6832,, 2,, 13) besides the supplys we continually afforded them for the Support of Undery, We might therefore acquaint the Scidee, that they not only expected he would make a Transferr as he had the Piscush, but propose some method for

discharging the remainder of their Debt or they should take their Measures accordingly.—

Surat Factory Diary, 8, Pt. I, pp. 2-3.

No. 139

SURAT; 7th JUNE, ANNO 1747.

The Chief acquaints the Board that for some days past he has very strenously sollicited the Sciddee to Discharge the Amot of the Bill of Exchange lately sent us, as the Govr. will not deduct it out of the Piscash, & that the Sciddee acquaints him that he has several times applied to the Govr. for money, who has put him off untill the day of throwing the Coconut, so that he cannot pay off the said Bill before that time.

Surat Factory Diary, 8, Pt. I, p. 101.

No. 140

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 17th JUNE, 1747.

Siddees desiring that the People at Underee may be withdrawn and their Account is made up.

The Sciddees having some few days past desired to be eased of the charge of Maintaining Our People at Underee as at this time of the Year they are under no apprehension of being attackt, the President acquaints the Board that he then ordered their Account to be made up to the end of April which amounted to Rupees two Thous'd and one, two quarters, forty seven reas (2001,, 2,, 47) six hundred and eighty one Rupees, one qr. sixty four reas (681,, 1,, 64) being the charge of maintaining Our People at that Place from the end of January to the above mentioned time and the remaining sum of Rupees Thirteen hundred and twenty and eighty three reas (1320,, -,, 83) was for Sundry Stores they desired they might keep for the defence thereof, which Account having been returned this day signed by the Governing Sciddee He now lays the same upon the Table— He further acquaints the Board that he has received a Letter from the Chief Officer at Underee informing him of his having surprised the Fort of Tull which was in the possession of Monajee Angria for maintaining of which the Chief Officer desires he may be supplied with four hundred Mussalman Sepoys for the space of one month with Sundry warlike Store. Upon which the Presdt further Observes that as this Governmt in the year 1737 mediated a Peace between the Sciddees and Monajee Angria wherein it was stipulated that the District of Tull should belong to Monajee on certain conditions therefore it was very wrong on the Sciddee to commit any Hostilities against him without previously advising hither their

reason, if they had any, especially with the People from Underee whilst that Island was under the protection of the Ho. Company as it may afford matter of complaint from Monajee, except he has given them some cause. The President therefore proposes writing a letter to Monajee Angria to abuse him that he was entirely unacquainted of the above transaction till after it was actually executed. And another letter to the Sciddee to know the Reason for seizing the Fort of Tull. And with regard to the Stores he has requested that it is not consistent with the Ho. Company's Orders to spare them any more especially till we are acquainted with their reason for the Hostile step they have committed tho' as they are in Friendship with us, they may purchase them upon the Island if to be had. And as to the Sepoys they want us to supply them with, We observe we have none of our own to spare, but as they lately permitted us to enlist People in their Country it is but reciprocal they should have the like liberty here. Altho' it may be believed they will be able to find but few that can be of much service; All which the Board Approves.

Public Department Diary, 20, pp. 212-3.

No. 141

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 16th FEBRUARY, 1748.

Sciddees Accot being made up. Copy thereof to (*torn*) Gingerah for approval. An order to Surat for payment.

The Sciddees Account amounting to Rupees 9420. 1 qr. 94 reas for Stores supplied with the Maintenance of our People at Underee from the 1st July including the Current Monthly Charges to the end of this Month being now laid before the Board directed that a Copy thereof be transmitted to the Govern. Sciddee at Gingerah for this pass. An Order upon Sciddee Mossoot at Surat for Payment thereof—What is further necessary to be observed upon the Underee affairs is deferr'd till another day three of the members not being present.

Public Department Diary, 21, p. 56.

No. 142

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 8th MARCH, 1748.

The Sciddee at Underee having this day returned the Account mentioned in Consuln the 16th ultimo, signed and approved to the end of January and it Appearing by Letters also at the same time that he as well as the Governing Sciddee at Gingerah are desirous of having our

People and Prahims withdrawn from Underee at the Misunderstanding that was between them at the time those Vessels were sent as noticed in the Diary under the 8th October and in Consultation the 8th December last is now amicably adjusted it is therefore resolved that they be accordingly recalled and that the Accounts above mentioned be likewise transmitted to Gingerah for the Sciddees Approval and giving Bills on Sciddie Mossoot at Surat for the amount.

Public Department Diary, 21, p. 88.

No. 143

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 13th APRIL, 1748.

At a Consultation Present
The Hon'ble William Wake Esq. Presidt & Govr
The Ho. Robt Rowdon Esqr
Rich. Sanders.
Thomass Dorrill.
George Scott at Mahim.
John Sewell indispensed.

Read & Approved our Last Consultn.

Sciddies Acco't return'd from Gingerah.

The Governing Sciddee at Gingerah having this day returned the account mentioned in Consultn the 8th ulto with a Bill upon Sciddee Mossoot at Surat for only Rupees 9120,, 1,,-. tho' the Accot abovementioned amounted to the end of February to the sum of Rupees 9420,, 2. it is to be observed that the Difference being three hund Rupees arises from ten Morahs of Batty supplyed in Decr being included in this Account for which he gave a Bill about that time as noticed in Consult the 15th Decr he has now deducted that amount.

Public Department Diary, 21, p. 127.

No. 144

SURAT, 22nd OCTOBER, 1748.

SCIDDEE MOSSOOT VISITS THE CHIEF.

Sciddee Mossoot visited the Chief this Day, & after Compliments & Expressions of Friendship, talked on the unhappy situation of Affairs in this City, & said that in case a speedy end was not put to the present Calamities they would soon occasion very fatal Consequences, lamented the want of Harmony in the Principal People, & said that nothing but the uniting in the cause could prevent the ruin of Surat; Being asked what

cause he meant replied that (*torn*) Mainodeen Caun. The Chief then asked him who the Merchants & Principal Inhabitants were desirous of, he said Mainodeen Caun, but that, 'till they dropped private Animosities it would be a difficult matter to bring things to a happy issue; Being asked who Animosities subsisted between, replied that himself & Mulna Fakerodeen had been at variance for some time as had Mulna Fuckerodeen (*torn*) Chellboy; The Chief offered (*torn*) Power to bring about a (*torn*) him & Fakirodeen to which the Sciddee consented & soon after likewise Mulna Fakirodeen droped in to visit the Chief & after the usual expressions of Friendship at first meeting, occasion was taken to touch upon the differences between him and the Sciddee, when both of them urged the Injuries he thought he had receiv'd from the other, but the Chief interceding to bring about a Reconciliation they at last consented thereto & swore a lasting Friendship to each other; It being then proposed that Sawlie Chellaboy should be invited to come directly to the Factory, to try whether his & Mulna's Differences could not be ended in the same manner, which Mulna consenting to he was sent for, when after some difficulty they were likewise reconciled. They all Agreed that nothing but their and the Principal Inhabitants uniting in Mainodeen Caun's Interest could put an end to the long depending troubles, & wished a publick meeting at the (*torn*) might be held to agree on measures for the same. This evening Mainodeen Caun sent to the Chief to desire he would pay him a private Visit next evening in the Castle, to which he consented.

Surat Factory Diary, 8, Pt. I, pp. 28-9.

No. 145

TRANSLATE OF A LETTER FROM MEAH ATCHUND TO THE PRESIDENT & COUNCIL RECEIVED ON THE 8th FEBRUARY, 1749-50.

AFTER COMPLIMENTS.

As there is a sincere friendship subsisting between us which I am desirous of seeing increased and it shall be so while I am living I am well satisfied of your Honours not giving Credit to what several persons have wrote against me.— Mr. Lambe after his arrival here did use his endeavours to accommodate the misunderstandg between myself & Sciddee Mossoot, & doubtless he might have acquainted your Honour of his proceeding therein, but now he withstands in concluding it, therefore now desire your Honours will please to write him to stand my friend. & to do me what good he can, & hope your Honours will give no Ears to what some people may write you.—

ANOTHER SEPARATE PAPER

As the Slaves of Begler Caun, Amanulla Caun &c had pickt out a great deal of money forceably from the inhabitants in Teg Beg Cauns time & are grown very rich, they are now afraid of my calling them to account, therefore have taken Sciddee Mussoots Protection, causing great disturbances by the said Scydees Encouragement which is a great Scandal to my Government, but I cannot help bearing it as the time obliges me so to do; but while they continue in the Town they will never be quiett.—I wish God Almighty may permit that they may be banished from this place I doubt not but that your Honour may be informed of their ill behaviour by other hands. I desire your Honour to consider and if you think proper I will send them where Suffdir Caun is & hope you will please to write Mr. Lambe to give me what good advice, & assistance he can, After they are turned out the Place and the Inhabitants will doubtless live easy and please to take notice of it.—

To

Meah Atchund

I am extreamly desirous of your Governments being made easy to you, and that the People be so likewise, I therefore directed Mr. Dorrill, and Mr. Lambe to use his Endeavours on all occasions for that end and for procuring Peace and tranquility to the City. I observe what you write of Sciddee Mossoot whom I am pleased to find by a late Letter from Mr. Lambe is likely to accomodate matters with you, when I make no doubt but the others you mention in your last letter will be easy under your Government, and doubtless you will not, in such case, give them any MOLESTATION.

Public Department Diary, 23, pp. 73, 74 and 76.

No. 146

SURAT NOVEMBER, 1751.

22d. Came advice that our Ketch, Sloop & Galevats & Prahm were come into Domus, & had there landed a Party of Men, & carried off some Goats, & Cows, killed a Woman, & a Boy, and wounded two Seapoys belonging to the Sciddee, on which immediate Orders were sent to seize all English Boats & people which might be coming up the River soon after which the Defence's Boat coming up was seized at the Scidee's Bunder, and the People in her bound & beat, and the Boat detained, on hearing which I immediately sent to Suffdir Caun, & the Sciddee to demand restitution of the Boat and releasement of the People, but received for answer that I must not expect it whilst our People continue

to commit Hostilitys below, with much difficulty I thro' the Interposition of the Dutch got the Boat, & People sent away about 10 at night. At their Departure the Sciddees Officers told them to take care how they ventured up again before a Peace is concluded, as they would not answer for their Lives.

The Sciddee laid a Chain with Booms across the River from the French Garden to the opposite Shore, and begun a Battery of 18 Guns to Guard it a little below.

23d. Reced. a Complaint from the Governour & Sciddee that our People still continue to commit Hostilities down the River which they say must soon occasion a fresh Rupture.

24th. Reced Complaints to the same Purport as Yesterday, and that some of our small Vessells continue advancing which occasioned a renewal of the Prohibition of supplying them with Wood, Water, Provisions, and also to seize on all Boats, & People going to, or coming from them.—Messages were sent to the Dutch, French & Portugueze, strictly forbidding them to supply our fleet with any kind of thing.

25th. The Castle, & Scidee Battery fired Briskly on each other but with little Execution.—

26th. The Government & Scidees People presses their Advances hard on the Castle, & got a Battery built within Pistol shot from which they considerably annoy the Castle, tho. they still continue a brisk fire from thence, both of Cannon & Small Arms.—

27th. The Government & Scidees People pressing the Castle very hard this day, and having made their approaches very near it is reported Meah Atchund has sent a Person to Treat with them.

James Henry Lambe.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, pp. 18-9.

No. 147

SURAT — DECEMBER, 1751.

DECEMBER 24th

The Firing ceased between the Castle and Batterys and people from Suffdir Caun and the Sciddee went to the Castle, as it is reported to treat with Meah Atchund.

James Henry Lambe.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 39.

SURAT. — DECEMBER, 1751.

DECEMBER 29th

SCIDEE Kuroola, Omrapa and his Mia Boy three of Meah Atchunds Principal Officers came from the Castle to the Scidees house as it is said

in order to treat with him. but he being indisposed the Conference was put off till tomorrow Morning, and the three Officers abovenamed went to lodge for the night at the house of Shaik Mahumud Fazell.

30th. In the Morning Scidee Kuroola Omrapa and Meaboy went to the Sciddees and had a long conference with him, on their departure he presented them with shawls, and sent presents of Provisions, Bread & Fruit with them for Meah Atchund, all which he refused. They then went to Ali Nouas Caun, and Suffdir Caun, and at night returned again to the house of Shaik Mahmud Fazell being as it is said to meet again at the Sciddees to-morrow morning; the purport of this days Conference is not well known, but it is generally reported that it was on the subject of delivering up the Castle which it is thought cannot hold out above three or four days.

*31st. A CONFERENCE held at the Scidees House as yesterday but Meah Atchunds Officers hearing of the arrival of the Bombay Grab raised their demands so much, that it is said that they broke up without coming to any manner of agreement.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 40.

No. 148

SURAT JANUARY, 1751-2.

1st JANUARY

IN the Morning the Factory was surrounded by a great number of the Scidee's and Government's people, who with great difficulty at the desire of the French and Dutch Chiefs permitted Wood, Water, and Provisons to pass to the Factory demanding to know the reason of our Vessels arrival with Reinforcements, to which no advices being arrived no answer could be given. At eleven two of the Dutch Council came to the Factory with the Compliments of the day as usual. At noon came advice that Meah Atchund had delivered up the Castle to the Scidee and that Scidee Sabaun had entered it with three hundred men on which wrote a Letter to Captain Best to advise him thereof, as follows:—Viz.

To,
Captain Thomas Best,
Sir,

This serves to advise you that the Castle is this morning delivered up to the Scidee and on account of the arrival of our Fleet the Factory is surrounded on all sides by the Governments and Scidees people and none suffered to pass in or out of our Factory untill the design of these Vessels coming be known. I am obliged for Provisions and their Passing to you to the Mediation of the late Treaty. God send a happy end to these

affairs, but at present there is a very unpleasant Prospect which gives me great concern.

I am,
Sir,
Your most Humble servant.

James Henry Lambe.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 41.

No. 149

SHIP PRINCE HENRY, SURAT BARR, JANUARY, 1751-2.

SUNDAY 5th.

We esteem it necessary to inform you how we were brought here and what has happened to us since as we have not yet had an opportunity of advertising the Hon'ble the President and Council of Bombay. On the 27th October in the evening we two in pursuance to a General Resolution of Council that morning, made an attempt to get down to the Barr, but were stopped at the Toddy Bank the next day by some Boats which the Sciddee had sent there for that purpose, the Scidee's people as soon as they had stopped us, said they must carry us to the Dutch, and accordingly, when they had brought us up to town delivered us to the Fiscal, who sent us to the Director, who with three of his Council, were assembled at the Directors House, when we were brought in; they insisted in an insulting manner that we had engaged our persons to the Mediators as security for the President and Councils abiding by the Treaty, and declared to us, that therefore we must remain here and a sentry put over us with other people to observe that we did not go away, which sentry was accordingly placed and we remained prisoners to the 9th November, without being allowed the use of Pen, Ink and paper though we often asked for it, nor would they permit us, to go upon the terrace to preserve our healths, by breathing a little fresh air, but the Dutch (we suppose) having reperused the paper of security and finding no personal security in it as they had asserted, and considering therefore, that they had acted in an unwarrantable manner in imprisoning of us............

Surat Factory Diary, 9, pp. 48-9.

No. 150

SHIP PRINCE HENRY, SURAT BARR, JANUARY, 1751-2.

THURSDAY 9th.

We hear that the Scidee has fired upon you and that you are out of

the station ordered by Captain Best, of all this we expect an immediate Account till when we are &c.,

SURAT 7 P. M. J. H. Lambe.
8th January, 1751-2.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 66.

THURSDAY 16th AFTER COMPLIMENTS

I received your letter and did not write before because I did not think you had anybody on Board that could read Persians or Indians, I cant sent the man you want or come myself because the Factory is surrounded by the Scidee's people, whatever I know of affairs, they have passed during the War, I will acquaint you therewith......

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 91.

.........the Scidee has been sick for some days, but is now better......... fresh news arrives every day to the Scidee, but I do not know from whence, once a week news also comes from Bombay, but I cannot tell who writes it from thence but think it necessary you should enquire affairs in the City and what regards the English House are every day worse and worse, the Scidee is repairing the Castle and putting everything in order...

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 92.

No. 151

SURAT JANUARY, 1751-2.

6th. Beating to Arms all round the Town; and reports coming that the Vessells are coming into this River.—At 3 in the afternoon came in sight the Defence Ketch, Content, & Dispatch Sloop, & Triumph Prahm, which caused a general alarm in the Town, and the Government and Scidee's People at all their Quarters getting under arms.—

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 46.

8th The Vessells remain as Yesterday off Ombra, and the whole Town in Arms, and the Batterys at the Waterside reinforced, and a New one begun opposite the Scidees Bunder.—

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 47.

Ship Prince Henry, Surat Road.
10th January, 1751-2.

To James Henry Lambe Esqr.
Sir,

Last night we reced your Letter of the 8th Instant when we expected to have had a Copy of the Treaty between the Scidee, and Meah Atchund

you must endeavour to procure as soon as possible, and advise us whenever you have an opportunity of what Passes in the Town, We are,

Sir,

Your very Humble Servants

Henry Savage
Lau: Sulivan.

Wrote an answer to the above Letter, which Incloseed to Capt. Sach on Board the Ship Neptune at Dentelaoury as follows Vizl.

To Henry Savage
& Laurence Sulivan } Esqr.

Sirs,

Your Letter of Yesterday came to hand this Morning, I have not been wanting into my Endeavours to get a Copy of the Treaty made between Meah Atchund, and the Scidee, but have not been able to succeed, it not been drawn out in due form, but it is talked in Town that the Scidee is to give Meah Atchund Three Lacks of Rupees, and suffer him to retire to a private House in Town with all his moveables, others say, He is to be Governour of Ranial, a Town about a Mile above the Castle, As I learn any thing worth communicating to you, you shall not fail being duly, & speedily advised thereof. Inclosed is a Diary of what has passed here since my last Address to Bombay to the 10th Instant.

I am with Esteem

Sir,

Your Most Humble Servant.

James Henry Lambe.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, pp. 47-8.

Ship Prince Henry, Surat Road,
13th January, 1751-2.

To James Henry Lambe Esqr.

Sir,

We have reced, your Letter of the 11th Instant inclosing your Diary to the 10th, and shall depend upon receiving the Treaty between Meah Atchund, and the Scidee, so soon as you can procure it, and write the news of the place as frequent as you have opportunity.

Your Most Humble Servants

He: Savage
Lau: Sulivan.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, pp. 48-9.

At noon by a Peon recommended to the Care of Captain Joseph Sach of the Neptune, wrote an answer to the above as follows Vizl.

To Henry Savage
& Laurence Sulivan } Esqr.

Sir,

This morning came to hand Your Letter of Yesterday, as yet I have not been able to get an Answer to your Letter to the Merchants, nor do I now find the Scidee will sign any Treaty with Meah Atchund, but only as he promises Pay Him a Sum of Money & suffer Him to retreat, & live in a private manner in Town.—

I am with Esteem
Sirs,
Your most Obedient Humble Servants

SURAT JANUARY 14th 1751-2.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 49.

No. 152

SURAT PRINCE HENRY, SURAT BARR, JANUARY, 1751-2.
SUNDAY 19th

To,

Monsr. Boucard,

Sir,

THE enclosed letter we request you will, yourself deliver to Scidee Mossoot, as we are really under the necessity of asking you this favour since we have no one person, we can properly make use of, the Moody expected who we esteem too low a Fellow for such a business. The substance is, to demand the release of Mr. Lambe and people, now prisoners in the English Factory, and the letter or reply he may give in answer if you will come down to the Barr with it, we shall esteem ourselves particularly obliged to you and as we mean to treat you with openness and Candour, you have translate of our letter to the Scidee.

To Scidee Mossoot,

AFTER COMPLIMENTS

It is now some days that we have been arrived here and have orders from the General of Bombay to withdraw our Factory to effect which, we ordered Mr. Lambe &c to come away but by his answer, we find your people has surrounded the Factory, which prevents his being able to comply with our Orders. This is still adding to the many losses we have sustained from you during your late war, to recapitulate which would unnecessary as everybody in these parts are fully acquainted with them.

TWO of our gentlemen, are unjustly detained prisoners by the Dutch who we have desired they might be permitted to come to us but the Dutch pretend that you will not admit to this. However we are in hopes

when you receive this letter, you will release all of them, as to the effects and house, if you dont chuse to permit of the formers being brought away, you may do with both whatever you may think proper, as we have ordered our colours to be struck and the Warehouses sealed up &c.,

Surat Factory Diary, 9, pp. 101-2.

No. 153

SHIP PRINCE HENRY, SURAT BARR, JANUARY, 1751-2.

WEDNESDAY 22nd.

ATCHUND,

WE received your letter last night by our Messanger and was very glad to hear from you, we before acquainted you of our inclinations to serve you, which you may be assured. We shall endeavour all in our power to effect two days ago we wrote a letter to Scidee Mossoot, demanding Mr. Lambe &c to be sent to us, to which we have as yet received no answer though we are in hopes it will be such as we expect, we shall after that write him our demands which if he complys with will prevent any more Bloodshed and make everybody in town easy, we chose first to take this method, if possible, to prevent any further losses and sufferings to the poor people who generally feel it the most upon these occasions you may be assured, we shall not forget you in the terms we make with him and if you can inform us of anything particular, we shall always be glad to hear from you.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 105.

No. 154

SHIP PRINCE HENRY, SURAT BARR, JANUARY, 1751-2.

AS I understand by advices from Surat Meah Atchund has made peace with the Scidee, two hundred of whose men Meah Atchund has received into the Castle which he has agreed to deliver into the Scidee's hands I imagine it will be necessary to increase your Forces, and should you esteem it proper, I can in a month's time, procure as far as eight thousand good seepoys provided I am supplied with ready money to enlist them. For this purpose I dispatched a Pattamar Express to Mr. Sulivan, under the 12th and wait his answer.

William Shaw.

To,

Captain David Basset,

SIR,

You are on receipt of this, if the winds and tide permit, to weigh anchor with the Defence and all other vessels under your command and proceed

round Ombra point. stationing your Vessels, so far distant from the Batteries as that none of their Guns, can do you harm, and where you are to remain until further orders, the Fishing Boats in the River and those we now send you, it will proper to keep a head of you to prevent the enemies setting you on fire, should they attempt it. Place the Neptune in the most secure manner possible that no accident may happen to her, and if you conceive it less hazardous to have the powder divided let it be done; some shot, it is probable may be fired at you from the Batteries which must not be returned, as we do not yet intend to commit hostilities. A strict watch must be kept day and Night that you may not be surprised, as we hear the Scidee is fitting up some Gallivats and is ranging them near the Castle, Captain Sterling is ordered to beat the drum night and morning and the Seepoys to blow their trumpets, that you may keep up a figure while you remain there. We are &c.,

To,

Captain James Sterling,

SIR,

We now send you in fishing Boats with Seepoys which must be stationed wherever Captain Basset may desire and when you are got round Ombra Point, so long as you continue there you are to beat the Reveiller and Tattoo, and at the same time your Seepoys are to blow their Trumpets but no firing on any account unless the enemy comes to attack you. Be very watchful and keep up strict discipline amongst your people and suffer no one to go on shore on any account. We are &c.,

Surat Factory Diary, 9, pp. 112-4.

No. 155

SHIP PRINCE HENRY, SURAT BARR, JANUARY, 1751-2.

SATURDAY 25th.

In the evening Atchund's Seepoy brought a letter from him (as translated hereafter) telling us he desires we would take the first Baston in the River and then Sciddee Sabaun will settle everything with the Scidee. That the Dutch wont let the Scidee send Sabaun on board us, telling him, we have only one Thousand Men, and are not able to do anything, that Scidee Sabaun knows of his coming and was yesterday in the Castle; that Shack Sulivan who lives there with Atchund, is willing to deliver it up for fifty thousand Rupees and that the Nabob himself always writes the letters.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 117.

SUNDAY 26th.

THIS morning came to hand a letter from Mr. Boucard translated hereunder — Viz.,

MESSRS SAVAGE AND SULIVAN,

I yesterday received your letter of the 23rd January your stile, I now enclose you Scidee Massoot Caun's answer, it seems to me, that he has really desire and design to make Peace with you Gentlemen, on a solid and lasting Foundation. He has desired me to write to you, to treat this affair very secretly, that nobody may put any obstacles in your negotiations and not even to acquaint Mr. Lambe he told me, that some days ago you wrote a letter to Meah Atchund in which you gave him hopes to put him again in his Governement in fine, he the Scidee, desires that you will not write to anybody else, he is content to give you all just and reasonable satisfaction and desires nothing better than to finish, I desire you will send me an answer to his letter, in such a manner as to make him understand that you are also satisfied to finish the affairs of Surat.

SCIDEE Sabaun who is the person that came to my House, is well content to have an opportunity of talking with you Gentlemen by word of mouth, so do you write me in what manner you wish to have an Interview and if in case he would come down to Domus, or in the Road to you, what security you can give him for his safe return.

FOR once gentlemen this is my opinion, that if you have really and truly an intention to make Peace, write me a little near in what manner you wish to treat with your affairs, I will acquaint the Scidee, and very soon, we will regulate the Articles.

WRITE to Scidee Massoot in your letter, that he will send to you Scidee Sabaun, that you give him your word and honour, that whenever he pleases he may return.

......................................GENTLEMEN,

SURAT 4th February 1752. N. S. Your very humble and very Obedient sert,

P. S. 5th. B. Boucard.

As I was shutting my letter and putting that of the Scidee in the inside your vessels appeared off the point at Ombra and the Scidee did not think proper to send you HIS. Have the goodness to give orders to your Vessels to return to Dentelowry where they were before, after which you will receive his letter. I advise you to this because these people take Umbrage at their coming all things are well disposed and done in such a manner that they wont be spoiled, have a little patience, the affairs are in such a fashion, that they deserve mature reflection. I hope you will do now what I advise you to and that you will believe me very sincerely &c.,

B. Boucard.

DISPATCHED the following in answer to Mr. Boucard Viz.

SIR,

THIS morning came to hand your letter of the 4th N. S. and esteem ourselves much obliged to you for the trouble you give yourself in our affairs.

WE did not order our vessels round to Ombra, until we judged, the water could be full low for them to pass and not hearing from you or the Scidee, our directions to the Commander were, to proceed round the point and there to anchor, but on no terms to commit Hostilities.

TO convince you Sir, and the Scidee, how sincere we are in our wishes for the public tranquillity, and that you deal with men of honour who will never fail you we now (at your desire) order all our vessels to return directly to Dentelowry and where they shall wait so long, as we have the prospect of treating with advantage to our affairs.

You and Scidee Mossoot may be assured, that we shall trust none with our negotiations and Mr. Lambe the last man, because he has no manner of business with these affairs, and we shall confine ourselves in writing to you and the Scidee only though it is true, we did send a letter to Atchind in substance as you express, but you have our assurances that this correspondence shall cease.

EXTREMELY glad we should be able to have an interview with Scidee Sabaun of whom we have heard a very good character and for his safe return we have no other security in our power to offer, than our solemn word and honour which we pledge to you and him in the most sacred manner. We sir, can have no interested views we have done with India, our only motives for coming hither is to serve the Hon'ble Company and restore peace if practicable to Surat, to effect which our privileges must be confirmed agreeable to our Phirmaunds, our charges repaid us, Atchund restored to the Castle, the liberty to build our Factory at our own gardens, the effects lost in the Latty made good to us, with some other points of less moment, all which you confess are just and reasonable demands, and we are thus particular, as you have desired to know our expectations.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, pp. 118-21.

No. 156

SHIP PRINCE HENRY, SURAT BARR, JANUARY, 1751-2.

MONDAY 27th.

This morning Monsr. Boucard sent us a letter, enclosing one also from the Scidee, and in the evening returned herewith our answers (all which are hereafter translated) together with a separate piece of paper in the Scidee's, importing that as Sabauns character, induces us to place a

confidence in him; if he would come down to have an interview with us, we promised in the most solemn manner that he might return, when he pleased and took this method of advising the Scidee, as he might want to show his letter to some, who it would be improper, should know anything of it.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 124.

MONDAY 27th.

SCIDEE Massoot's letter in answer to our demand of the Release of Mr. Lambe & People Viz.,

After Compliments,

WHAT you wrote about sending Mr. Lambe & the great losses the Company have received in this War, may be true but then you should consider who was the cause of it, when all the damages and losses of the Inhabitants of the Sacred City of Surat, Sufdir Caun and myself have sustained, who was the cause of this? notwithstanding all which my regard for the Company was so great, that at the desire of Mr. Lambe and at his writing which writing was sealed with the Company's seal, and the Counsellours and Mediators, Heads of the Dutch & French Houses whatever was then agreed to ought to be by them stood by, as in all countries where any agreement of this kind is made and words passed such would be thought sufficient, more especially as the writing has got the Company's Seal, the which is always reckoned creditable everywhere and the heads of the Houses aforementioned are also present, but these things you ought to hear of from other people and in all probability have heard and an enquiry I shall look upon as a favour and that you will act agreeable to that as for me, I am an ancient friend and during the War, never did anything but what was handsome, and now also, there is no difference and whatever can be expected from a friend, I shall do whenever we meet? I thought it was proper to advise you of this.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, pp. 125-6.

No. 157

SHIP PRINCE HENRY, SURAT BARR, JANUARY, 1751-2.

MONDAY 27th.

To MONSr. BOUCARD,

SIR,

WE received your letter of the 6th February with that from the Scidee and now we send you an answer in which we show him, that an honourable Peace wont be disagreeable to us, and in a little piece of paper which we put into it, we wrote our desire to have an interview with Scidee Sabaun if you know that he wants to keep our correspondence

secret, very well, but if he will show that letter to Suffdir Caun, it is better that he first takes out that piece of paper.

Your very humble Servants

Henry Savage,
Lawrence Sulivan.

TO,
SCIDEE MASSOOT CAUN,
AFTER COMPLIMENTS,

IN answer to your letter we desire to acquaint you that it does not in any shape appear to us, that our people have been the aggressors in this War, nor doe we choose to present, to trouble you with a long account of our losses and damages, which everybody in Surat are acquainted with in part are daily Eye-witness of; the friendship you profess for the Hon'ble Company, we hope will appear hereafter, as to ours, you have on many occasions had sufficient proof in regard to the Scidees and we always make it a Rule, whenever we once profess to keep up strictly to it, so long as we have it in our power and never choose to break it, but when we are absolutely obliged to it.

WE hope you will still comply with our desire in regard to Mr. Lambe and People, for keeping them Prisoners in the Factory will avail nothing, they being now of no manner of consequence to our affairs.

IT is yet in your power to prevent the miseries that many may shortly feel, and to show our intentions are sincere, in wishing tranquility to Surat; we have two days past, ordered our Forces from Ombra to Dentelowry where they will wait until we know your determinations which we hope from your .... understanding and great knowledge will lead you to do us ample justice. In return we shall do all in our power, that a strong friendship may be made, as we have no interest either way. This is all that we find necessary to write you at present further than our being &c.,

Surat Factory Diary, 9, pp. 125-7.

No. 158

SURAT JANUARY, 1751-2.

At 10 in the Morning reced the following Letter from the Committee through the Hands of Mr. Boucard Vizl.

Ship Prince Henry.

27th January, 1751-2.

To James Henry Lambe Esqr.
Sir,

In answer to Yours of the 24th We say that your acquainting Scidee Mussoot with our directions, and his Impeding your putting them in

Force leaves you blameless, but we must desire that you do not make use of the Company's Seal on any Account, whatever, if our Letters at any time appear to you harsh, you are to consider the Company's Interest is our only Motive and that respecting ourselves, we have no views whatever.

We are
Sir,
Your Most Humble Servant;

Henry Savage
Lau: Sulivan.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 59.

31st.
To Henry Savage & Lau: Sulivan } Esqr.

Sirs,

This afternoon at four a Clock Meah Atchund came out of the Castle to live at a House near to the Scidee Mussoot of which I think it necessary to advise you, I have not recd any of Your Favours since that the of the 27th Current.

I am with Esteem, Sirs,
Your Most Hum: Servt.

Surat 31st Jany.
1751-2.

James Henry Lambe.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 59.

No. 159

SHIP PRINCE HENRY, SURAT BARR, JANUARY, 1751-2.

WEDNESDAY 29th.

CAME to hand a letter from Monsr. Boucard of which the following is a translate Viz.,

GENTLEMEN,

I received your letter of the 27th with the letter for the Scidee, Scidee Sabaun being at a feast to-day he wont be at my house till night, when I will deliver that for the Scidee and will endeavour to come to an agreement with him, what day he will come into the road and to-morrow I will acquaint you with all that has passed upon this subject, I now send you three sorts of Greens with a little fresh Beef and six fowls and am very sincerely &c

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 130.

FRIDAY 31st.

IN the evening Jaggernaut came to us, bringing with him Moolah Ibrahim a Moor formerly employed under Captain Inchbird in the affairs

of Jengerah and Rajapore, being well known to Scidee Mossoot and Sabaun. He may prove of real service to us, as a messanger because for many reasons it will be improper at present to trust Jaggernaut away from us.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 134.

No. 160

SHIP PRINCE HENRY, SURAT BAR, FEBRUARY, 1751-2.

SAT. 1st.

Jaggernaut came on Board with Mullah Ibrahm, when we agreed to send Moolah to Town, with our Letter to Sciddee Mossoot, and with Jaggernaut's Verbal request to Scidee Sabaun (an old Friend of His) that he should be very glad to have a meeting with him on the subject of our Differences.

Received a Letter from Mons. Boucard, enclosing one from the Scidee, as translated hereafter Vizl.

GENTLEMEN,

I received last Night the Letter You did me the honour to write me by my boat, I now send you a Letter from the Scidee to which I desire You will send me an answer, Scidee Sabaun was on the Point of setting out, but some persons with Evil Intentions for the Publick Good, have put stones in your affairs, and he cannot now go, He desired me to write you to have patience three or four days, and from this to that time, He will settle all affairs so as to be able to come and talk with you and endeavour to finish immediately so gentlemen, I must desire you good as not to be impatient because the things are in a situation, that Deserve mature Reflection.— I send you three sorts of Greens with a little Beef & Eight Fowls

GENTLEMEN

11th February N. S. Your very humble and Obedient Servant.

B. Boucard

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 138.

LETTER from the Scidee—Vizl.

AFTER COMPLIMENTS.

You wrote that to this time it does not appear, that Your Gentlemen began this War, nor was it necessary to trouble me, and that the Loss which the Company sustained, all the World were acquainted with; This may be but at the same time Your People were the cause of this War, Which every one knows and you also must have heard. The ancient Friend-

ship is Reciprocal, notwithstanding the loss I have sustained and the Burning of the Fleet with all stores I considered of, Yet agreeable to the desire of Mr. Lambe and Mediators the French & Dutch, I made a Peace, and had a written agreement, and according to the Custom heretofore, keep your House & People, they may remain strong. The Company have always assisted me, and I ever looked on that House as my own, you wrote that your Friendship was the same, which you would not break, I am of the same way of thinking and more than before, I and you will join together to carry on the affairs of Your House, If your wrote for me to let Mr. Lambe go, if you have designed to have stood to the Peace lately made, What reason was there for Mr. Lambe's going away, he should be wrote to, to keep it strong, you wrote, you wanted to see, Scidee Sabaun having some words of Friendship to talk with him, I have no objection to that, he will come, but to what end, untill I know your Intentions because the Counsillors the Dutch sent to you, certainly after seeing of them, you have sent word to the (Contractor) the Dutch whatever you have talked of. After I have heard what that is, and considered of it, I apprehend it will only be Friendship.—

At the same time came to hand a Letter from Mr. Lambe of which the following is a copy.

SIRS,

This afternoon at four o'clock Meah Atchund came out of the Castle to live at a house next to Scidee Mossoot of which I think it necessary to advise you, I have not received any of Your favours since that of the 27th current, I am with Esteem &ca

James Henry Lambe.

DISPATCHED the underwritten in answer to Mr. Lambe Vizl

We have just received your of Yesterday advising us of Atchunds coming out of the Castle, to live in a House next to Scidee, Which we desire you will inform us the Reason of, as We are at Loss to judge, Your Letter under the 27th & 28th Ulto. came duly to hand and have not wrote you, since the former

We are &ca.—

In the afternoon forwarded answers by the French Ship to Mr. Boucard & the Scidee as per following Translations, enclosing the former a Copy of the other Letters to us and our reply Vizl.

To Mr. Boucard,

Sir,

This morning we received your Letter of the 11th February with the Sciddee's Enclosed, but We are sorry to find Scidee Sabaun could not come, we apprehend this has happened from somebody, that are enemies to the General Good.

You recommend Patience to us, which we should not fail to have, was there any prospect of things being brought to a conclusion, however for the present we shall follow your advice, but there does not appear anything favourable from the Letter the Scidee has wrote us. We now send you a Copy of it, which we desire you will shew to Mr. Leverrier, whose opinion we should be very glad to have of it, we now also send you an answer for the Scidee, with a Copy in French, which you will see is very short, This we judged to be the best way, apprehending whatever we write, is shown to our enemies, which gives them an opportunity of throwing stones in our way.

You don't mention whether you have said anything to the Scidee about the Articles, we wrote you, which was very necessary to do and in future desire you will be very particular.

Knowing the Friendship subsisting between Jaggernaut & the Scidee we sent for him and is now arrived here with hopes that he may be of service, we shall be glad to know the opinion of the Town in this affair.—

We are obliged to you............, &c &ca.

TO SCIDEE MOSSOOT,

We have received your Letter and a short answer is best, Your own knowledge and experience of the World must make it plain to you, that so great a business as ours, cannot be adjusted by Letters to each other at such a Distance, because there are many things we have to say which cannot be trusted to paper, therefore we again desire that you will permit Scidee Sabaun to come to us, when we pledge you the Word & Honour of Honest Men for his safe Return.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, pp. 139-42.

No. 161

SHIP PRINCE HENRY, SURAT BAR, FEBRUARY, 1751-2.

SUNDAY 2nd.

HONBLE SIR & SIRS,

Scidee Massoot hitherto keeps off from Peace on any terms, but our abiding by the Treaty, which we can never submit to, Our greatest Difficulty is Dutch Influence, or by this we should have had a Conference with Scidee Sabaun, who was coming down to us, We yet do not despair at least we can promise that no Diligence or Assiduity will be wanting on our Parts to conclude Honourably—

HONBLE SIR & SIRS,
Your most Humble Servants,

Henry Saavage,
Laurence Sulivan.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 143.

No. 162

SHIP HECTOR, SURAT BAR, FEBRUARY, 1751-2.

MONDAY 3rd.

In the evening came to hand a Letter from Scidee per Mr. Boucard of which the following is a Translate

I have received Your Letter at which I was very glad, I perceived what You wrote about sending Scidee Sabaun, and I wrote to You before to let me know what it was, the General Demanded; after I hear that I will send him but what does it signify to do it before, Look upon me to be very good Man &ca.—

TUESDAY 4th.

WROTE the following Pr. Mr. Boucard to the Scidee

To the Scidee

Sir,

We received Your Letter Yesterday concerning Scidee Sabaun that we before wrote to you about, we are now of the same opinion, that what we have to say is not proper to put in writing. If you dont care let him come to us, send him to Dentelaoury, where we will send Jaggernaut Loodass to meet him, when they will talk over everything that is necessary, this we do for the benefit of You and the People, in Surat, if you dont agree to it, Do you set in the City and we will set here, and after that, anything that God pleases will take place, and we desire You will look upon us to be Your WELL WISHER......

Surat Factory Diary, 9, pp. 147-8.

No. 163

SHIP HECTOR, SURAT BARR, FEBRUARY, 1751-2.

SURAT February 1751-2.

5th. The Vessels at Dentelowry. The Scidee went round to all his Batteries to view them and encourage his People.

6th. The Vessels at Dentelowry as yesterday and affairs in Town as then.

7th. The Vessels at Dentelowry as yesterday, came advice that the Content Sloop and two Gallivats had joined them there which caused a small alarm in Town.

11th. Scidee Sabaun went to Dentelowry to confer with Jaggernaut Lalldass.

12th. About noon came news that Mr. Draper was come to Dentelowry to confer with Scidee Sabaun and in the evening that he was returned to the Barr, about sun-sett Scidee Sabaun came to Town, Wrote a letter

to the Committee and sent it to Captain Sach of the Neptune from whom received advice in the Evening that he had delivered it to Mr. Draper.

13th. Came advice that Henry Savage Esqr. was come on board The Defence Ketch in order to confer with Scidee Sabaun who is at Dentelowry.

14th. The Vessels at Dentelowry as yesterday and Mr. Savage in Conference with Scidee Sabaun. At sun-sett Scidee Sabaun returned to Town and brought advice that Mr. Savage was returned on board the Hector in the Road.

SIGNED

James Henry Lambe.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, pp. 197-8.

No. 164

SHIP HECTOR, SURAT BAR, FEBRUARY, 1751-2.

THURSDAY 6th.

Received a Letter from Meah Atchund, in substance, that he is come from the Castle, and refers us to his Messenger for further particulars who only mentioned that we should write to Scidee Massoot for Meah Boy one of Mossoots Officers, to come to us, when we hoped peace would take place, informing us, that on Munchur's abusing a Scidee Soldier, he had Fifty Men, as a Chowkey on him for twenty four hours and that they were taken off from his house at the request of the Dutch and he believes for a sum of money.

Mulna Ibrahim returned with a Letter from Monsr. Boucard enclosing the Scidee's answer as Translated hereafter.—

GENTLEMEN,

I send you an answer to the Scidee's Letter by the Moorman that came ashore, who has talked with Scidee Sabaun & Scidee Mossoot Caun, He will make you a faithful report of their Conversation; It seem Your affairs are taking a good turn, You may return an answer by the same Moorman, and I hope that in a little time You will finish Your Affairs.

17th February N. S. **B. Boucard.**

Scidee Mossoot's Letter

AFTER COMPLIMENTS

I have received Your Letter and observe what you write to have Scidee Sabaun sent to You in order to tell him Your .... Demands but now can I send him till I am well assured, that Your Intentions are Friendship & there are some here, who were Mediators when the last Peace was made, who ought to be brought into the Council, and then we should talk in a proper Manner over these Affairs, though for a long time

between our House & Yours, there is no Difference. Yet at the same time some People that there in the Company's Factory have done every thing that they could possibly do bad in their Behaviour and Breaking their words with me, If you have never heard from Europeans what concerns these Troubles, Yet they are well acquainted with it, & whenever you please, can inform you.

AT the Beginning of these Troubles the Companys People at Bombay never considered sufficiently whether Good or Bad would be the Issue, which as they are now sensible of, I pass over, But at the same time the Company's People here have behaved so ill, that Friendship could never have come betwixt us, so long as Surat lasted. However for your sakes and the People you employ in this Affair it has got the better of my Resentment, but from the Distance between us, sending and receiving answers to and Fro takes up a great while, The Friends that made the Peace must come in between to settle this affair also These People are Well Wishers, but you must look upon me to have the Companys Interest still more at Heart, than they have, You wrote me, that I might set in the Town and you would set where you are, and that whatever God pleases, would take place, this I understand but my Design is that the Companys Business should be carried on as formerly at Surat in conjunction with me and you, and I desire that you would look upon me as the Company's ancient Friend, and that nothing has happened in these affairs through my means, but that the whole blame dwells with the People of your Factory, The substance of Mulna Ibrahim's Conversation is as follows.

That he represented to the Scidee, that we were come with Determined Resolutions to have satisfaction for all Inquiries, with Payment for all Damages sustained by the Company and their subjects, and that he ought to remember with Gratitude how often the English had saved and protected his Nation at Gingerah and in the Defence Undery; to this Mossoot replied, that the Injurious and disgraceful usage he has received from Mr. Lambe is known to all Surat, his servants abused and himself forced to fight in his own Defence, although he sent Message after Message to request Mr. Lambe would continue in Peace and that the Burning of the Kings Fleet was the highest Affront to the Moghul, However at the Intercession of the Dutch, French & Padrees and in consideration of his regard for the English, he had entered into a Treaty with our Nation, which was signed by our Chief & Council the Honble Company's Seal Affixed and witnessed by the Mediators which Treaty ought to be kept, and if we wanted a Conference it must be with him and the Dutch; Mulna Ibrahim assured him; that if the Dutch were not put by, & Scidee Sabaun only sent to us, that he must expect soon to see the ruin of Surat, for this was a Point that We should never give up, Scidee Sabaun then earnestly interposed to comply with our Demands, when the following answer was resolved

upon, and sent us, That he would desire to send Sabaun and his Secretary to the Dutch Chief and Council to acquaint them with our demanding Scidee Sabaun to be sent to us which if the Dutch refused agreeing to, They were ordered before Mulna to tell them that they then expected fighting with the English should be immediately renewed, and that the Dutch should commence the War, with their Ships against ours at the Bar, and assist him in driving us from the River, and if the Dutch declined this he would then begin a Conference, desiring Mulna Ibrahim to let us know, that if we would send Jaggernaut to Dentelowry he would order Sabaun to meet him there provided HOSTILITIES were not determined.—

Surat Factory Diary, 9, pp. 149-52.

No. 165

SHIP HECTOR, SURAT BAR, FEBRUARY, 1751-2.

FRIDAY 7th.

CONSIDERING the above, and the great Improbability that the Dutch will dare to attack us AGREED without Loss of time to dispatch Jaggernaut to Dentelowry and Mulna Ibrahim with a Letter to the Scidee, enclosed in one to Monsr. Boucard, Wrote Instruction to Capts. Basset & Sterling in which the Measures we took to guard against Treachery from the Enemy, & Folly in our People, will appear & delivered Jaggernaut our Demands, all which are entered hereafter.

To Mr. Boucard

Sir,

Last night we received Your Letter with one from Scidee Mossoot by the hands of the Moor, We believe that the Scidee will send the Person We want, but in his Letter he does not write anything of it, though he appears more reasonable than before, and now We send an answer by the same Man.

LETTER to the Scidee

We received your Letter, and notwithstanding what You write, expect You will Comply with our Desire, in sending Scidee Sabaun to Dentelowry, where Jaggernaut will be ready to meet him, and if Your inclinations are good, every thing may be soon finished, The Gentlemen, You mention who were Mediators before, We don't doubt, have our Interest at Heart, but don't think it at all Necessary to trouble them upon this occasion, because affairs are very different now.—We hope to find the same Friendship You profess and on our sides nothing shall be wanting,

To Mr. David Basset

Sir,

Scidee Massoot has promised to send Scidee Sabaun to Dentelowry to confer with Jaggernaut Lolldass on our Affairs, and We hope he will come on board the Defence, when in such case, they must have the Cabbin while he Stays, which may be a few hours, the Attendants and soldiers of Scidee Sabaun that come with him, if they are fifteen or twenty, We suppose may be admitted on board without Risque, but if there are greater Numbers, it will not be proper. Have Your People and let the soldiers and those in all the other Vessells, be in Readiness, & strictly upon their Guard, to prevent Treachery.

But if Scidee Sabaun should insist upon Treating with Jaggernaut on Shore, the following must be punctually observed, and with which Jaggernaut is acquainted,

1st - The Place of treating ashore must be entirely under the Command of your Guns - 2nd - Sabaun's People (except four) must be ordered at such a distance from whence they treat as they cannot possible be with them before you can land Numbers to destroy them, should they attempt any Treachery - 3rd - When he is there with his four Men, We order ashore with Jaggernaut & properly armed, Capt. Sterling, Ensign Funge & two good Serjeants who are to stay with Jaggernaut, so long he is ashore & to come off with Him.

Take the greatest care, if Scidee Sabaun comes aboard that none of his People are in the least insulted by ours, or used ill, because such a small accident may ruin our Affairs.

The last we have to say to you must be kept to yourself & divulged to none, which is, to have the strictest eye over Jaggernaut, night and day, that he does not escape from you, or be surprised by the enemy, and if at any time he wants to go ashore to wash or eat, do you under pretence of taking care of him, always send a sufficient Guard of armed Men to go and come with him, for alive he must not get from you,—It will be necessary that your Boats are ready with Lascars to push ashore if necessary with Soldiers but let all be done quietly and without Confusion—We are &ca.

To Capt. James Sterling

Sir,

We have fully acquainted Mr. Basset with our sending Jaggernaut into the River to treat with Scidee Sabaun and who will inform you—If Scidee Sabaun comes on Board the Defence to treat, have your people there & in the other Vessells strictly upon their Guard while he stays, and be very particular in Your Orders to the Soldiers, that no Soldier or Servant belonging to the Scidee, is insulted or ill used, for the least Trifle of this sort may be the ruin of our Affairs, on the contrary let them all be

treated kindly, and let everything be done calmly and without noise—And if Scidee Sabaun insists on treating ashore, He is to come with Four men only...........If Sabaun insists on five or six men, make yours the like Number—

Surat Factory Diary, 9, pp. 153-6.

No. 166

SHIP HECTOR, SURAT BAR, FEBRUARY, 1751-2.

MONDAY 10th. Wrote the following to Mr. David Basset.

Sir,

As we hear Scidee Sabaun intends to come......down to Dentelowry with some Pomp, he must in like manner be received with Distinction, and if he comes on board of You, besides saluting him with seven Guns, coming and going, acquaint Capt. Sterling that he with his Soldiers must be drawn up to receive him.—If he does not come on board of you, he is only to be saluted with seven Guns, when Jaggernaut meets him & when they part, and our former orders no way.........ALTERED. We are &ca.

Received a Letter from Monsr. Boucard by Mulna Ibrahim, acquainting us that the last letter we sent came through the Dutch, the reason of which he could not comprehend mentioning also that Scidee Sabaun and Scidee Mossoots Persian Writer would meet Jaggernaut at Dentelowry the 12th viz.

GENTLEMEN

The Letter you enclosed me for the Scidee came by the Dutch Hands, but I cant conceive by what Mistake Scidee Sabaun and the Scidee's Persian Writer will go tomorrow morning in Company with Mulna Ibrahim to meet Jaggernaut at Dentelowry. I hope this interview will produce some good effect, and in Case the Circumstances require, that you Gentlemen should also go there, I hope you will do it. Received handsomely the Scidee & the Writer and give them small Military Honours and do upon this Occasion whatever Prudence and the Necessity of Affairs may require. I am with great consideration

GENTLEMEN

Surat 20th Febry. N. S. Your very Humble & Obedient Servant

B. Boucard

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 158.

No. 167

SHIP HECTOR, SURAT BAR, FEBRUARY, 1751-2.

MONDAY 10th.

The substance of Mulna's Conversation with the Sciddee.

That our Letter to the Sciddee being intercepted by the Dutch, they sent their Broker Muncher to deliver it, which embarrased Mulna for a short time, untill it was discovered. We were ignorant of its passing through Dutch Hands, the Sciddee then acquainted Mulna, our Business should be done in conjunction with the Dutch, so far as an outward appearance only but matters of Consequence should rest with ourselves, and that Sciddee Sabaun had orders to meet Jaggernaut at Dentelowry, but being pressed by Manoola Caun to an Entertainment it cannot take place tomorrow but certainly shall the next day, In the meanwhile he ordered Mulna to come immediately to us with these particulars, at least, we might think him tardy. But this Method Mulna assuring him he would never suffer, he then consented to leave the Dutch entirely out. The conference was interrupted by the coming of Munchur the Dutch Broker, when Mulna retired to a very small Distance and sat by Sciddee Sabaun, the Discourse was a complaint against Sabaun, that he held a private Correspondence with the Governor of Bombay, and he imagined was contriving Massoots ruin—Sciddee Sabaun on the mention of his name joined them when bitter words passed between him and Munchur, the Conclusion was Sciddee Mossoot adhereing to Sabaun and menacing Munchur with threats of future Vengence if he did not drop his Villaneous Practices.

THE CONCLUSIONS that we draw from the above, that Sciddee Mossoot is so strongly cemented with the Dutch, who have Sufdir Caun to make a proper use of, That if we are able to baffle the Dutch, which our distance & Situation will render extremely difficult, Sciddee Mossoot will most certainly insist on an adequate Security, if he drops their Alliance, & the issue now in appearance is, That We must engage to support and protect him against any other Power, and as we are treating with a Conquerour who is too well acquainted with our Weaknesses and Inability to distress him consequently we have little expectation of doing our Honble Masters the service we wish.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, pp. 159-60.

No. 168

SHIP HECTOR, SURAT BAR, FEBRUARY, 1751-2.

TUESDAY 11th.

Arrived our two Gallivats with a large Boat from Cambay in .... We cant help being uneasy that Sciddee Sabaun is not got yet to

Dentelowry, when we consider how many days it has been in Agitation, for though the reason we can frame for delay appears somewhat plausible, Yet we cant help thinking of their Inclinations for Peace were so good as We have heard from Mons. Boucard, Mulna Ibrahim, & indeed everybody we talk with, they would have embraced this opportunity we have given them of an Interview with Jaggernaut immediately; and not have admitted a feast &ca, to have impeded them, We have as yet had no reason to think that Mr. Boucard or Mulna Ibrahim would deceive us, The former has before this been employed by us on such occasions, and whose Fidelity We never heard mistrusted, and the latter is a great friend of Jaggernauts, and besides that has some private Interest in View, which will depend altogether upon the success of the Present Affairs In his relation of his Conversation with the Sciddee, Every body seemed inclined to Peace but the few that are in the Interest of Sufdir Caun and the Dutch. In case this day Sciddee Sabaun should not come, we must think of some other way to quicken them.—

At 10 P. M. Jaggernaut & Mulna came on Board with the following Letter from Mr. Basset in the River.

Worshipful Sirs,

At 9 this morning Sciddee Sabaun came down and immediately about 200 Men came close under our Guns, He refused coming on board but told us (*torn*) might be sure his Intentions were just, as he had put himself and all his People in our Power; He dispursed some of his People, but kept about 50 with him, and Jaggernaut, Capt. Sterling Ensign Funge, 6 Serjeants, 12 Private Men, and a Subedar with some Seepoys, went ashore and met him almost close to the Waterside, & entirely under our Guns, at ½ past 1, the Conference ended. Now comes Jaggernaut & Mulna Ibrahim to acquaint of Particulars. I am

Defence 11th February. **David Basset**

Surat Factory Diary, 9, pp. 163-4.

No. 169

SHIP HECTOR, SURAT BAR, FEBRUARY, 1751-2.

TUESDAY 11th.

Jaggernaut gives the following Account of his Conversation with Sciddee Sabaun, Vizl.

After Compliments from both sides, he desired to know what our demand were, in order to the conclusion of a Peace, Jaggernaut acquainted him with the Articles We had given him in writing, when he said, he was much surprised. We should have any thought of the Castle which belonged to the King, to whom we were no Relation, nor had ever served

him, but they had been old servants, upon which account, they had a Right to it in preference to us, but this they did not insist upon, and should leave it entirely in the Kings Hands to give it whom he pleased, Our Expences & Losses in the Latty to be made good, He looked upon as extraordinary, Nobody desiring us to make War, on the Contrary he had sent many Messages by different People to Mr. Lambe desiring him not to do it, representing the bad consequences that would ensue, but in answer to this, He only threatened and abused him and at last began the War, without any provocation on the Sciddee's side, which have ended in the manner We have heard by the last Treaty; In the Course of this War the Sciddee had been at a very large Expence which is apparent to every Body, and obliges him to demand a sum of money from us, He thinks it also very surprising that we will not abide by the Treaty Mr. Lambe & the Council made at the Mediation of the French and Dutch, sealed with the Company's Seal, which in these parts was always esteemed Authentic, He mentioned many other circumstances of little Consequence, and the Advice the Dutch had given them, Never to allow us any other Terms, than what were made in the last Treaty, Copy of which they would send to the King of England, who would oblige us to stand by it. Our Demand to have Sufdir Caun not employed is also a very difficult point for the Sciddee to get over, but he told Mulna Ibrahim in private that when he saw us, this might be adjusted, and that, he carried something in his Belly which he should divulge to us only. He expressed greatly about Mr. Lambe's Imprudence in burning the Kings Fleet, by which we had reaped no advantage, but if we had helped them in our hands, would have obliged the Sciddee to come to our Terms in order to get them back again; As to our continuing Hostilities, he was not under any Apprehensions about it or indeed any other Warlike Measures We could take.—(The Dutch having engaged to supply Sciddee Mossoot with Money to pay His Soldiers, and to stand by them in every respect whatever) He concluded at last, desiring an Interview with one of us, at Dentelowry or Domus, after which, he would bring Sciddee Mossoot to Ombra, where both of us might meet him, & very soon finish every thing. He Ordered Jaggernaut & Mulna Ibrahim to come on board directly & acquaint us & he would wait at Domus for an answer. Upon considering of the foregoing, We find ourselves much at a Loss how to act from the many obstacles and difficulties that appear to us. The Dutch we find oppose our Accomodation, in all shapes they possibly can, which is very natural as success to us, must end in their Disgrace, and the present Grandeur they enjoy will no longer subsist nor their favourite Safdir Caun. The arguments the Sciddee makes use of in his own Favour, particularly that, regarding the Commencing the War, We hear by all hands to be very just, and almost as related by him, our own weakness and inability to carry on the War, appears too plain not only to him, but

all who know the least of our Affairs, The absolute necessity there is, for an End to be put to this War, that the Forces now here, may return to Bombay, where very few are remaining, The large Expence the Honble Company are daily at here is a Circumstance that requires our utmost attention, For these reasons we are of opinion, we ought to embrace all opportunitys of finishing this Affair, as soon as we possibly can and even to condescend, as occasions may offer, to things which at another time might appear imprudent, accordingly agreed that we return Jaggernaut and Mulna Ibrahim, also Mr. Daniel Draper our Secretary, to Sciddee Sabaun with our Compliments desiring that he would come on board the Hector, which if he evades that Capts. Sterling and Funge to remain with his People as Hostages till his return and if that does not satisfy him, Mr. Draper also to offer himself as one, But if none of these were accepted, Mulna Ibrahim and Sciddee Sabaun to go upto Town, to endeavour to prevail upon Sciddee Mossoot to meet up both at Ombra. At the same time gave private orders to Mr. Draper that in case he found (after making use of all the Persuasions he was capable) Sciddee Sabaun would not come, then to acquaint him one of us would come to Dentelowry to meet him on Board the Defence. We chose to do this to prevent Sabauns going back, which he might take amiss and not give us so favourable an Opportunity again & as our Friends the Dutch might also make use of this to our Prejudice.

WEDNESDAY 12th. At four in the morning Jaggernaut & Mulna Ibrahim left the ship & Mr. Draper at six who carried the following Order to Capt. James Sterling.

Sir, If Sciddee Sabaun should agree to come hither on condition, that you with Mr. Funge remain as Hostages for his safe return you must comply as it will be of singular service to the Honble Company's Affair and we shall have occasions to detain him for a few hours only & are &ca.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, pp. 164-7.

No. 170

SURAT FEBRUARY, 1751-2.
2d.

To Henry Savage, & Laurence Sulivan, } Esqr.

Sir,

Your commands of the 1st came to hand last night, on which I sent a Person privately to Meah Atchund to ask his reason for leaving the Castle, to which he only answered that all his People had left HIM, and He did not choose to remain there alone under the Sciddee's Guard, besides that the Scidee was very pressing for his going out, & perhaps

would have obliged Him to go out by force, whereas He now makes very fair promises of doing something considerable for Him— I am with esteem Sirs,

Your most obedient Humble Servt.

James Henry Lambe.

11th. Scidee Sabaun went to Dentelaoury to confer with Jaggernaut Lolldass.

12th. About Noon came News that Mr. Draper was come to Denteloury to confer with Sciddee Sabaun, & in the Evening that He was returned to the Barr, about sunset Scidee Sabaun came into Town.

13th. Came advice that Henry Savage Esqr, was come on board the Defence Ketch in order to confer with Scidee Sabaun, who is at Dontelauory.

James Henry Lambe.

14th. At sunset Scidee Sabaun returned to Town & brought advice that Mr. Savage was returned on board the Hector in the Road.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, pp. 60-2.

No. 171

SHIP HECTOR, SURAT BARR, FEBRUARY, 1751-2.

WEDNESDAY 12th.

Sir,

From the good opinion we have of your Inclinations to oblige our Nation, we place the Confidence of asking your Sentiments, who in the City are the ruling Powers, besides Sciddee Mossoot, The different Parts and their separate Interest, We are now entirely into a conference with Sciddee Sabaun, and Perhaps Sciddee Mossoot satisfy us, what sort of Man you think Sabaun to be, and if there are others that can be of more Consequence and Advantage to our Affairs, and lastly who are against us and our Interest. We are told that if the Dutch are applied to by us, a Good Peace may be obtained, and that if we do not make such Application, they may embarass and obstruct our Affairs Your opinion in this Particular Pray transmit us. Our own reasons for omitting to take this Advice are, that their Interest is too much concerned for our gaining any advantage, through their means. This Letter is a convincing proof of the Confidence we have in your Friendship, and a speedy reply will oblige &ca.

At 6 P. M. Mr. Draper returned from the River, where he had seen Sciddee Sabaun, but could not prevail upon him to come on Board the

Hector to us, though all the methods were tried that could be thought of to induce him to it, and at last offered himself to stay on shore as an Hostage, but nothing would do, he alleging that, he must first have Sciddee Mossoot's orders agreable to our Instructions Mr. Draper then acquainted him that one of us would meet him at Dentelowry the next morning to which he concurred. Agreed that Mr. Savage goes early tomorrow morning to meet Sciddee Sabaun; Mr. Basset acquaints us, in answer to what wrote him about the miscarriage of the Letter to Mr. Boucard, which fell into the hands of the Dutch, that Capt Sach of the Neptune declares, he gave it to a Seepoy of Mr. Lamb's who before had carried many Letters.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, pp. 168-9.

No. 172

SHIP HECTOR, SURAT BARR, FEBRUARY, 1751-2.

THURSDAY 13th. EARLY this morning Mr. Savage left the Ship for Dentelowry.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 170.

FRIDAY 14th. At 4 P. M. Mr. Savage returned on Board, he met Sciddee Sabaun, Sciddee Massoot's Secretary, and his adopted son, who after a great deal of Persuasion and threatening to return without seeing of them, were prevailed upon to come on board the Defence Ketch, Captain Sterling, Ensign Funge, Edgerton and the Gunner of the Defence being first, sent ashore to remain as Hostages, many compliments passed and assurance of the (*torn*) inclination of Sciddee Massoot, who looked upon himself and all the Sciddees (*torn*) have been under great obligations to the Hon'ble Company, for the assistance given when their necessities required, and that what has now happened in Surat had preceeded from the Sciddee but indiscretion of Mr. Lambe whom he had often (*torn*) not to commence the War, burning his Fleet is esteemed a very bad thing, which we reap no advantage by, and if they were now in our hands, the Scidee would be obliged to agree to anything we might propose, in order to get them back, and to show his Friendship for the English was still the same, he had sent down these people to talk and after this, himself would meet both of us at Ombra, when everything might very soon be adjusted. Mr. Savage acquainted them that our Demands were sent before by Jaggernaut and desired they would let him know, what they had to say about them, who must be Judges of Scidee Mossoots Inclinations how far he would comply with them and imagined we were come to beg a Peace of him, our Meeting would only be an unnecessary trouble to us and him, we being resolved to have ample satisfaction for the affronts and

losses we have sustained before anything like a Peace would take place. Scidee Sabaun then said, he imagined the Scidee would comply with anything that was reasonable, but it was a business of too great weight for him to pretend to talk of which was the reason of desiring a Meeting between Sciddee Mossoot and us, he would immediately acquaint him of everything that had passed, and begged Mr. Savage would stay till the next morning, when he should have an answer, which he after a great deal of Persuasion complied with. Accordingly at 9 the next morning Scidee Sabaun &c came to the tent near where our vessels lay, but the former being out of order could not come himself, but sent the Secretary & Son, who had very little to say, but to desire a meeting betwixt us and Sciddee Mossoot at Ombra, which Mr. Savage agreed to, but told them he must come on Board, this they could promise, but would acquaint him with our desire, though so far they could be certain, that if we could go ashore he would meet us without any soldiers, to show that he was under no apprehensions, they then left the vessel and presently after proceeded to Town.

It is impossible to be certain of the intentions of these people, though from what they told Jaggernaut they will comply with paying our charges and sending away Suffdir Caun, but the latter will take a few days to effect, the Castle seems to be what they will never comply with, but the Town they do not regard so much, It is our business now to guard against treachery when we meet, in case we should be obliged to go ashore therefore ordered on account to be sent us, of the number of European Soldiers on board the vessels in the River, as we think it necessary to carry one hundred in case he should bring a number with him. Jaggernaut was acquainted with the purport of the letter from the Morattas and painted as much in our own favour as possible which he made use of to the Scidee's people, and we hope will have its weights. Captain Sach of the Neptune representing that his people were in great want of a months pay, at the same time sending us an abstract, amounting to Rupees 161. Agreed that we comply therewith.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, pp. 171-3.

No. 173

SHIP HECTOR, SURAT BARR, FEBRUARY, 1751-2.

SATURDAY 15th. ADVISED Mr. Boucard of the interview with the Scidee Sabaun, desiring his opinion how far Scidee Massoot may be trusted in regard to our going ashore to meet him as follows:—

SIR,

YESTERDAY Mr. Savage had an interview with Scidee Sabaun Scidee Massoots Secretary and son at Dentelowry on board the Defence Ketch

where nothing material passed, but many complaints and assurance of their good inclination to Peace, it was agreed that both of us should meet Scidee Massoot, at some place on this side Ombra. We now desire to know your opinion how far Scidee Massot may be trusted in case we should be obliged to go ashore to meet him. This we esteem a nice point, which is the reason for our troubling you. We are with sincerity &ca

In the evening dispatched a Pattamar boat to Bombay with the following address to the Honble the President and Council, advising of all occurences since our last, viz.,

HON'BLE SIR & SIRS,

OUR last address was by the Prince Henry when we informed you that we had a prospect of treating with Scidee Massoot, many difficulties have been thrown in our way by the Dutch but at length we obtained a meeting betwixt Jaggernaut and Scidee Sabaun at Dentelowry, without our seeming to seek it, the Conference was compliments only and a request that both or one of us would come to Dentelowry and as we could not bring him hither, Mr. Savage went on board the Defence Ketch, where he had an interview with Scidee Sabaun, Scidee Massoot's son and Secretary, and the conclusion of this meeting was an agreement to bring the principals together, accordingly Sabaun went up Town Yesterday to bring Scidee Massot to Ombra, which if he complys we are to repair thither. The substance of Scidee Sabauns discourse was the injurious usage his Master had received from Mr. Lambe, who had forced him to fight against his inclination, and the burning of the Kings Fleet was a cruel and foolish action, on the whole, we hope for Peace on as good terms as in our situation can be expected, although it may yet be a work of time.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, pp. 174-5.

No. 174

SHIP HECTOR, SURAT BARR, FEBRUARY, 1751-2.

MONDAY 17th.

GENTLEMEN,

I received the three last letter that you did me the honour to write the Moor who brings you this will acquaint you with every thing that Scidee Massot Caun has told him. My opinion is, Gentlemen, that you ought to give up a little of your demands, what regards the Castle you must never think of more. About Sufdir Caun you must find an expedient for the present, so that you may satisfy both the parties and after you have made friendship with the Scidees. It is very easy to put him out in two or three months.—

IF the Scidee will as there is an appearance to go himself to ombra, under ...... a Tent, pitched on purpose to talk with you, Gentlemen, I believe you have no occasion to make any difficulty to meet him there. On the contrary I advise you to it, because when you have made a .... sincere friendship with the Scidee be assured you will get anything you want, give a good answer to the Scidee upon .... all that the Moor tells you from him, that in two or three days after the Hooley is over they may finish everything.

Surat
27th February 1751-2 N. S.

GENTLEMEN,
Your very humble servants.

B. Boucard.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 183.

No. 175

SHIP HECTOR, SURAT BARR, FEBRUARY, 1751-2.

MONDAY 17th. NEWS in Town that the Morattas are arrived with 60 Corse or Forty miles. Mulna Ibrahim brought a message to Mr. Sullivan .... from Scidee Sabaun and the Secretary desiring they might meet him on board the Defence at Dentelowry which he evaded by returning for answer he should see them with Scidee Massoot shortly according to the agreement made betwixt him (Sabaun) and Mr. Savage, Mulna further informs that a Scaid and Favourite of Scidee Massoot's promised he would get payment of our charges secured to us provided that when Peace was made, a present was given with and with which we acquiesced.

The foregoing message confirms the opinion we have that the Sciddee's design is only to delay the time, till the Mocha Ships are sailed from Bombay when he will treat us differently for when Scidee Sabaun and the Secretary met Mr. Savage, their design and intent seemed to be to obtain a Promise that both of us should meet, the Scidee at Ombra when everything would, they were persuaded be immediately settled and judged the sooner it was brought about the better, from the contradiction in the passage today. We cannot reconcile it any other way than their having certain advices, that the Ships are sailed, or assurances that they will, and the purport of the message appears to us to have been planned by the Dutch, their favourite Sufdir Caun being included, and they dont choose to let the Scidee meet us, untill they are first assured, We shall agree to that.

AT NOON returned Jaggernaut and Mulna Ibrahim and ordered the latter to acquaint the Scidee that it is impossible to settle our affairs unless we meet, when expedients will be found concerning the Castle and ......

we should do everything in our power towards a Peace. Directed Mulna likewise to tell him that delay might be of bad consequence and should look upon it as a refusal to do anything with us, and to insinuate the Morattas powers being at hand, whose arrival might put it out of our power, to treat any longer with them.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, pp. 184-6.

No. 176

SHIP HECTOR, SURAT BARR, FEBRUARY, 1751-2.

TUESDAY 18th.

GENTLEMEN,

I this moment received your letter of the 15th Instant. Scidee Sabaun came two days ago to my House and told me everything that passed at the interview with Mr. Savage, with which he seems to be satisfied. I wrote you yesterday by the Moor what I think of your affairs, my advice is the same to-day, this Gentleman you should not make any difficulty of to go to Ombra, to talk with Scidee Mossoot, you ought not to have any apprehensions for your persons, because I do not believe him capable of such a treason, you say the thing is delicate, I perceive very well Gentlemen, all the consequences of that, but you should also consider that Scidee Mossoot is a little King and that it is doing a great deal in his Opulence which he is at present in, to transport himself to Ombra to make a friendship with the English Nation so believe me do not make any difficulty in meeting when he is sure of your friendship, he will give you more than you ask of him and sacrifice all to live in a good understanding with the English. It is unnecessary to ask hostages of him for the security of your persons when you go ashore, and another time, Gentlemen, I repeat to you not to have any fear..........................

Surat 28th February N. S. **B. Boucard.**

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 188.

No. 177

SHIP HECTOR, SURAT BARR, FEBRUARY, 1751-2.

THURSDAY 20th.

SIR,

YOUR letter of the 28th we received the 18th—and thank you for your advise therein. We shall meet Scidee Mossoot in the manner you and Mr. Tobias advise us, without demanding any Hostages which we were induced to do, from Scidee Sabaun's demanding four, when he came

on board to meet Mr. Savage at Dentelowry. We sent the Moor ashore three days ago to the Scidee and till this time he is not returned, and as we had not then received your letter he will ask hostages of the Scidee, but as above if they are not granted, the Point will be given up and we can assure you, Sir, our inclinations are the same as we always told you towards Peace and whenever we meet the Scidee shall make him easy, if he is inclined in the manner you seem to think. We are entirely of your opinion, that if once we meet he will after that have confidence in us, and we hope, act as you mention, and we must desire you to prevail upon him to come as soon as possible, which will greatly oblige us. We just now received your letter by Mr. Mc. Mahone and by his hand we sent a bag containing fifteen hundred Rupees.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 192.

No. 178

SHIP HECTOR, SURAT BARR, FEBRUARY, 1751-2.

FRIDAY 21st.

AT 10 P. M. Jaggernaut and Mulna Ibraham came on board the latter had seen and talked with Scidee Mossoot who was satisfied with our message and promised to come to-morrow to Ombra where we are to meet him. He immediately ordered tents and other things necessary, to be sent there to receive us, he mentioned that many people had advised him not to go to Ombra to meet us, as our design were very bad against him, but he looked upon this to be false and wanted to make friendship with us.

Received a letter from Monsr. Boucard by the same hand who advises us of the Scidees intentions to meet us when he hopes everything would be settled and owns the receipt of fifteen hundred Rupees sent him Viz.,

GENTLEMEN,

I last night received your letter of the 20th Instant. The Moor sets out to-day to carry you the news that Scidee Mossoot has already sent to Ombra all things necessary to receive you and that himself goes to-morrow without fail, so Gentlemen, as soon as you receive this, have the goodness to transport yourselves to Dentelowry where when you arrive, wait till you hear the Scidee is arrived at Ombra.

I believe that the Scidee will engage you to come to the City and I think one or both of you will do well to come, In fine I have great hopes that the peace will be made because I hope that what concerns Sufdir

Caun you will find a middle way to satisfy yourself and the Scidees also.

Surat 3rd March N. S. GENTLEMEN,

There are some malicious people who would turn the Scidees from going to meet you at Ombra.

B. Boucard.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, pp. 198-9.

No. 179

SHIP HECTOR, SURAT BARR, FEBRUARY, 1751-2.

SUNDAY 23rd.

At 2 P. M. Scidee Sabaun, the Secretary and Scidee Massoot Caun's son came on board with the Scidee's compliments and professions of friendship, after setting some time they began to talk about our meeting Scidee Massoot the place they proposed was Dessy Garden near Ombra, where they said, we might come in our Vessels but on enquiring of the Commander find if we go there, the Water will not be high enough to return in less than ten days. They then proposed our bringing the vessels as far as we could and the Scidee would order Pallankeens to the Water-side to carry us to the Garden. We endeavoured all in our Power to prevail upon them to bring the Scidee lower, that our Vessels might be just off where we lay, but they alleged there was no other place with Water and conviniences and the Scidee was a very old man, who could not bear being exposed. At last we gave up this point. Then we asked of Hostages when three or four were named but at last Scidee Sabaun told us that he was now our servant to manage this affair, and he would take care to bring on board, such people, before we went ashore as we could have no objection to. They then desired to see us weigh and run up a little higher which we told them we would do soon after they were gone. We then enquired what time to-morrow the Scidee would be at the Garden. They said at 6 O'Clock. We then promised to be ready after which they went away seemingly very well satisfied. At 4 P. M. Mr. Basset to weigh anchor with all the vessels and proceed so high that next tide in .... one or two hours, we may go as far as we choose.

WE have in course of this affair acted in every step what we thought was best, to bring the Scidee speedily to terms, and to some it may seem that we have been too condescending, but we have always carried every point as far as we possibly could before we gave it up and in this last the same for as we know our own weakness and incapacity of fighting, our endeavours have been to accomodate matters, and that no point of Honour in us at this juncture, should be a hindrance to or prevent it, has been the only reason or inducement for us to act in the manner we have done.

RECEIVED A letter from Monsr. Boucard and another from the Dutch Directors &c., which are here translated Viz.

Mr. Boucard's letter dated the 5th March N. S.

GENTLEMEN,

SCIDDEE SABAUN and the writer that belongs to Scidee Mossoot go now in company with the Moor to see you, the Scidee himself will go tomorrow, so I wish every thing may pass according to your wishes. Tomorrow I intend to go to the Barr to hasten the departure of my vessels for the Gulph of Persia, The Garden of Dessay, although at a little distance from the River side is a very agreeable place to meet the Scidee in, so if he desires it don't make any difficulty to go.

B. Boucard.

SUNDAY 23rd.

6 P. M. To prevent as much as possible the ill consequences that may attend our ...... being treacherously detained to-morrow by the Scidee resolved to leave Mr. Draper on board and deliverd him orders to Capts. Mc. Conokie and Sterling, to be given in case of such an accident to follow his directions, till he can receive the Hon'ble the President and Councils commands Viz.,

TO Captain James Mc. Conokie,

SIR,

IN case of our detention by the Scidee, you are hereby ordered to follow Mr. Draper's directions till he can advise the Hon'ble the President and Council at Bombay and are,

SIR,
Your affectionate Friends
H. Savage.
L. Sulivan.

same to
The Capt. James Sterling.

FOR the above reason, intend to make a guard only of twenty Europeans but Jaggernaut representing that the Scidee will meet us in great state and that it will be necessary to carry at least fifty Europeans and as many Seepoys accordingly agreed to it. ORDERED Mulna to set out at 4 in the morning to the Scidee that the persons intended as Hostages may be sent on board before we leave the vessel. At 10 A Boat arrived with the Hon'ble Company's tent and all its appurtenances likewise a letter from Mr. Lambe advising thereof.

DELIVERED the following orders to Mr. Daniel Draper Viz.,

SIR,

IN case of our being detained by the Scidee, you are hereby ordered to repair to the Barr, with all the vessels now in the River as soon as the Tides will permit of it, As we judge it will be improper to continue

stopping it up and therefore you are to act only on the defensive, till you can receive the Hon'ble the President and Councils orders, we are &ca

WROTE Mr. Lambe acknowledging the receipt of his letter last night with the Hon'ble Company's Tent, and desiring him immediately to forward us the two Silver Flag Staffs and Colours usually carried before the Chief to the Durbar, as also two hand Staffs and Colours.

AT 8 A. M. Mulna Ibrahim returned from Ombra, where he had been with Scidee Sabaun who told him, Scidee Mossoot could not meet us this morning, the proper Hostages that he wanted not being ready and an accident happened that the Dutch Doctor had been dangerously wounded by one of the Scidees Soldiers and it was expected could not live, if he died the Scidee was obliged to stay in Town to make some compliments to the Dutch......... upon the occasion.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, pp. 200-4.

No. 180

TRIUMPH PRAHN, SURAT RIVER, FEBRUARY, 1751-2.

AFTER COMPLIMENTS.

MONDAY 24th.

THE FIRST day four Jamadars &c., came from Scidee Sabaun, Mahumed Yacub and Shack Suliman, who afterwards came from Scidee Massoot Caun. They acquainted me that I was to have all the Taxes arising to a Governour. The Castle in the name of my son and the Durbar for me.

THE second day they talked a little time and then pulled a writing of Agreement, and told me when I went out to the Scidee's House and met with him, he would acquaint me with everything.

WHEN I went to see him at his house, he did not speak one word, what had passed between Sabaun and me in the Castle, and even said, he knew nothing of the matter.

NOW I have lost every thing for the faults of others and am living in a house with my children and trust in God like a prisoner unless you forgive me, whatever expences have happened to you have been owing to me.

SENT him a verbal answer that we were next day going to meet the Scidee whom we would endeavour to do every thing in our power for him.

(25th) AT 8 A. M. Scidee Sabaun the Secretary and Scidee's son came on board to acquaint us that Scidee Mossots Caun was come to Dessay Garden, and desired to see us telling us that the Hostages were ready if we would send a boat to bring them. This we did immediately on which came Scidee Yacob, Ferras Caun, Scidee Abdulla Scidee Saut's son

and Scidee Jamshud. Then Scidee Sabaun went ashore to prepare everything for our reception at the Water side. In half an hour after we set out with the Secretary and Scidee's son and landed a little on this side Ombra Point, when two Pallankeens were ready and Ferras Caun and other Officers came to meet us, after compliments with them we proceeded with a number of horsemen and Scidee's belonging to the Scidee, Fifty European Soldier and Fifty Seepoys our own; The narrow places and hedges were lined with Seepoys, country people & Musick and in half an hour we came to the Garden where the Scidee's Tents were pitched, the number of soldiers being upwards of 2000, we got out of our Pallenkeens near the Tent, and the Scidee came to the door of it to meet us. We sat upon chairs and he between us, after compliments had passed we retired into a smaller Tent and were treated with Coffee, when he began to represent all his grievances and the ill usage he had received and how contrary it was to his inclination to begin the War, in answer to which we told him, we could say as much, or more on this subject as our sufferings had been very great and our Gentlemen had represented to Bombay that the beginning was from him &c., but if he began upon this disagreeable subject it would take up more time than we have at present desiring that we might begin upon our business which he consented to and desired what had passed might be forgot. Our first demand was, the Castle for the Hon'ble Company or Atchund, this he would not consent to on any account it belonging to the King, As for Atchund he was his mortal enemy which he had shewn upon many occasions particularly the last time when the Scidee joined with us and put him into the Government, He very soon after ...... shut the gates of the City upon him, and wanted to get him murdered. We used many arguments with him and tried to get the Government of the Town for him. At last we were given to understand by his people, what is we pressed him very hard upon this subject, it might cause the Death of Atchund. We then tried to procure posts for his sons, which we obtained a promise of and to be included amongst the other articles. Finding the Scidee was weakly and out of order. We desired him to retire for a time to rest, which he did, we took this opportunity of employing Jaggernaut and Mulna amongst his Chief Counsellours to endeavour to find out what articles were the best to press upon him and particularly in regard to Suffdir Caun. We soon found this was a point he could not comply with though his intentions were good, and would shortly be brought about, but at present it could not be done, as he had near as many soldiers as the Scidee himself and strongly supported by the Dutch, and also if he pressed it hard he would insist upon our assisting him to do it, which .... would involve the Company in a fresh War. Paying our charges would be consented to and all other articles that we wanted.

WE then told Jaggernaut ...... he might talk as from himself to the Scidee in private, that as we could not carry the Point for Atchund, he might dispose of the Government to whom he pleased and the Affair of Suffdir Caun we must leave to him. For our Charges two lacks of Rupees must be demanded, and to sound him upon other points, which when he had done, to acquaint us of, and afterwards bring him to us; Jaggernaut acted as above ordered and we found that leaving the Disposition of Suffdir Caun to him had taken very well which made him consent to give us our charges &c. presently after this the Scidee came, when we talked a little and agreed upon the following Points which after his going to Town and talking with the different Partys, were to be put in writing signed and sealed as usual in such cases.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, pp. 205-7.

THESE two last points were verbal; after we had talked a short time took our leaves and returned in the same manner as we went, but being low water, ... were obliged to come in our Pallankeens over against the vessels. We came on board with the Secretary and Scidee's son and delivered the Hostages to them. We think it very extraordinary that during our discourse with the Scidee not a word was mentioned of the ships at Bombay, not even by one person which confirms us in our former opinion that they were very well assured, they were either gone or would go. The merchants ....

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 208.

No. 181

TRIUMPH PRAHN, SURAT RIVER, FEBRUARY, 1751-2.

FRIDAY 28th. Scidee SABAUN the Secretary and son, came to the Tent opposite to our vessel and desired to speak with us. AT 9 A.M. went ashore to them. They told us it was necessary to send to town for our Munsee or Persian writer, that the Articles of Peace may be drawn out and also to write a letter to the Scidee about the articles of our Charges. We told them, we could not apprehend any necessity for writing such a letter as he had agreed to it when we met. They replied that it was very true and he would also comply, but as Mr. Lambe &c., made a Treaty with him in which no such demand was made by the people imagine he wants this of his own accord. AT NOON returned on board, and the evening went ashore again where we found our Munsee was arrived. They had drawn out copy of a letter to be wrote to the Scidee, which when we read, did not approve of having mentioned therein, that we desire Scidee Mossoot to assist in getting this Article of charges brought about;

therefore wrote one of our own only mentioning we expected he would comply with this, in the manner he had talked to us when we met him without that a Peace could not take place, and delivered it to the Secretary to be dispatched. They told the Caun designed we should go to Town the first day of the New Moon, which we esteemed a lucky time, we told them as soon as what we wanted was agreed to and sealed according to form. We would then go and not before. Promised to see them again in the morning and returned on board about 8. Wrote to Mr. Lambe for the Hon'ble Company's Munsee Two Mossals and a Hollincore which he accordingly sent us, with a letter of Advice as also two Country Lantham for the use of the Tent.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 213.

No. 182

TRIUMPH PRAHN, SURAT RIVER, FEBRUARY, 1751-2.

FRIDAY 28th.

TO THE HON'BLE THE COURT OF DIRECTORS

for affairs of the United Company of Merchants, of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please your Honours,

AS we apprehend this address may reach your Honours before the latter ships dispatched from Bombay we esteem it our duty to advise you of our transaction at this place.

THE distracted of situation of affairs in Surat obliged your President and Council to appoint a Committee with full powers to determine our unhappy differences with that Government, and if possible, obtain satisfaction for the great damages and losses your Honours have sustained there. We sailed from Bombay the 21st December with such a Force as could safely be spared from the Presidency and unfortunately for us the day we anchored at the Barr Meah Atchund had delivered up the Castle to Scidee Mossoot. An incident we were not acquainted with and just as we were departing for the River to relieve him, came a letter to us with the Melancholy News, This put us by all measures but treating as the Scidee became sole master of the Castle and City, numbers of Batteries erected on the narrowest part of the River and a chain across it and Meah Atchund a Prisoner. Nake Allum Khan Governour of Broach who was to have been ready at the Barr with one thousand men, and more if required, we found had been bought off by the Scidee,—and the Morattas who had promised the Governour before we left Bombay to assist us, as soon as their disputes with the Moghuls were at an end, which they apprehended would be done in a short time. We were also disappointed off.

WE first wrote a letter to Scidee Mossoot acquainting him that we were arrived at the Barr, to demand satisfaction for the heavy losses we had sustained, likewise the Gentlemen now prisoners in the Factory and two that are detained by the Dutch. As to the House and Effects if he would not permit of the latters being brought away he might do with them both, what he judged proper our superiors being resolved to remain no longer in Surat unless everything would be adjusted to their satisfaction. In eight days we received an answer from him acquainting us that Mr. Lambe and Council had some time passed made a treaty with him, when that was completed with our people should be released. We again wrote him that the Treaty was so scandalous and contrary to the interest of the Hon'Ble Company that the Governor and Council had refused to stand to it and in consequence thereof had sent us here. Previously we had advised the Europeans Chiefs that we intended to stop up the Barr and seize the property of the Surat subjects wherever it was in our power, a Method always practised upon the like occasions in order to bring the Government to terms and with success and we hopes at this juncture it would also have the same effect but the Dutch and Sufdir Caun who has a considerable force in Surat and is strongly supported by them being linked in interest with the Scidee rendered every measure towards an accomodation ineffectual and in this situation .... Affairs stood to the 13th of this month when with great pains and application we obtained from the Scidee a meeting betwixt one of us and an Officer we named with his son and Secretary, at this Conference little more passed than mutual professions of sincerity and a promise that Scidee meet us half way—in the River. Accordingly we moved from the Barr and went up to our small Vessels, laying near the place appointed, when every art was used by the Dutch &c enemies, to prevent our coming together, however in two days we surmounted all obstacles and on the 25th in the morning met him, where by five the same day annexed Treaty was agreed to, and when your Honours reflect on the stagnation of your Trade, the vast sums we have and are still expending our weaknesses and embroils here, and at most of your other settlements, we flatter ourselves with hope of your Approbation. It is true, we might very probably by waiting for the Morattas have made Surat a Scene of Blood and carried some points to raise our name though not our credit, which we conceive to be politicks destructive to your Honour's interest and although in all human probability disturbances may speedily take place betwixt the present ruling Powers, yet if our Peace is attended to it will be our own faults if we are not neuter and surely, late experience has taught us to feel the consequences of entering into War with these Governments, may one day prove fatal to your affairs.

THE EASTCOURT and Prince Henry went for Bombay the 16th of January and 2nd Instant and by our last Advices from thence would be

dispatched Home .... the 20th Instant. At the same time we were advised of the arrival of the Stretham the 5th January at Tellicherry where Shaftsbury was then loaded ready for Europe ....

MESSRS PYM AND HUNT are now with us, and we are promised Mr. Lambe and others in the Factory shall be released tomorrow or next day, but the superstition of this country people induces them to wait for the New Moon, before they will sign or seal the Treaty, as they esteem that a Lucky time after which we shall repair to the Factory, till relieved by a gentleman from the Presidency and are most respectfully.

May it please your Honour
Your most faithful humble serts

H. Savage. L. Sulivan.

SATURDAY 29th. IN THE afternoon went ashore to see Scidee Sabaun &c, when we desired them to hasten the Caun in finishing our Business, our time being very short for if we should not come to an Agreement, both of us had a great deal to do before the Rains. Before we went ashore, put our Articles with the Scidee into Persians and delivered them to the Secretary who promised in the morning to show them to Scidee Mossoot Caun who would be very well satisfied with everything the reason of the delay now was on account of the two lacks to be paid to us which Suffdir Caun and Scidee must settle together.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, pp. 214-7.

No. 183

SURAT FEBRUARY, 1751-2.

22nd. Came advice that the Committee were come on board the Defence Prahm at Dentelaoura in order to confer with Scidee Mussoot, who is to give them a meeting below Ombra in a day or two, having already sent his tent, carpets &ca;

23rd. At 4 in the after noon returned an answer to the above Letter as follows Vizl.

TO HENRY SAVAGE }
LAURENCE SULIVAN } Esqr.

Sir,

Your Commands of this Morning came to hand at Noon, & I waited till now for Scidee Mussoots waking for leave to Ship the Tent off, It now goes in a small Boat with all its appurtenances ....

James Henry Lambe.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 64.

24. At noon the following Letter to the Committee.

To Henry Savage &
Laurence Sulivan } Esqr.

Sirs,

This Moment Meah Atchund's Son and all his Family, & Effects are come from the Castle to his House, so that Place is intirely evacuated by his People, Scidee Mussoot, Suffdir Caun, & Ali Nouas Caun, have been in consultation all this Morning..............................

25th. At Day Break Scidee Mussoot, attended by Farus Caun, & Scidee Jaffer, in behalf of Suffdir Caun, set out for Ombra to meet the Committee, and at sunset they returned to their Respective Houses.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 66.

No. 184

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 30th FEBRUARY, 1752.

Mossoot not concerned in the ships bound to the Red Sea.

The President informs the Board that agreeable to what he was desired in Consultation of the 10th October last he has made the strictest inquiry as to the property, Sciddee Mossoot and his Party are said to have on Board the ships bound to the Red Sea, but can fine none, whereupon Messrs Delagarde & Scott, two of the Gentlemen who signed the Surat Advices of the 3rd June were called upon to know their reasons for affirming the same, who answer that the only motives they had for it, was hearsay from some of the Merchants.

Public Department Diary, 25, p. 56.

No. 185

TRIUMPH PRAHN, SURAT RIVER, MARCH, 1751-2.

TUESDAY 3rd. ABOUT 7 P. M. Mulna Ibrahm came from Surat and brought news that a quarrel had happened in the Street between one of our soldiers belonging to the Factory and one of the Scidee's people.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 226.

WEDNESDAY 4th. IN the evening we had news from Town, that the Scidee, Suffdir Caun &c., have had a grand Council, when all the Merchants and Chief Inhabitants were sent for and the Scidee showed them the Articles of Peace we had given in writing and declared to them, that they must pay five Lacks of Rupees, two for himself, one for Suffdir Caun and two for us, They told him for some time past they had carried on very little Trade and consequently money was so scarce that they could

not at present raise it. He then told them, that at this time, he only wanted the two lacks for us, on which they desired three days to consider of it.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 227.

FRIDAY 6th. AT 10 in the Forenoon, the Scidee's Secretary and son came on board and after the usual compliments and acquainted us that Scidee Mossoot Suffdir Caun &c have had a meeting with the Merchants in order to adjust our affairs, but as yet have not been able to finish them and to-day they meet again; when they think something will be done though as the people are poor, the Scidee desires we should lessen our demands, that they may be pleased. He the Scidee has take off one per cent of the Customs, and will do them other favours that the Port may be open and business go on as before. We told them that we could not lessen our demands for when we had a meeting with the Scidee finding he had an inclination to make Peace with us we gave up every thing he asked and as to the Money Demanded it was much less than the damage, We had sustained for which reason hoped he would not mention anything of that kind to us, they then said when everything was settled, The Scidee would ask us for a writing in which was to be mentioned that we would always stand by him and keep up as strict a Friendship as we had done with Atchund. We told them there was no occasion for a writing of that kind which in these cases is not customary and no reason to doubt, but that we should always live in Friendship together. They then took their leaves, the above message alarms us much as we are afraid as last they will insist upon our lowering the above demand which this seems designed to prepare us for. The writing in regard to a strict Friendship, we shall avoid and absolutely refuse complying with as it may engage us in continual quarrels on account of the Scidee. A Seepoy came from the Factory says, the Scidee's Seepoys that guard it, stop everybody that goes in or out and searches them that no letters may be conveyed and wont suffer provisions to be carried in. We enquired again concerning the above from the Scidee's Secretary, who absolutely says, his Master has only given orders ....

AT 4 P. M. returned on board the Secretary and Scidee's son to inform us, by the Scidee's order that he and Suffdir Caun had sent for all the people to-day to talk about our money, but they (the merchants) seemed to think that the former wants to take this for themselves and told them they would appoint some of the heads of them to come and talk with us about it, when the Secretary desired we would tell them that the sum we demanded was much less than we have expended, but for the sake of the Scidee and people in Town we had condescended to accept this sum, and which we would have before the Trade should open. They told us also

that the Dutch not having been consulted in the affair had set the people upon this step.

It plainly appears to us that the Scidee does every thing in his power to bring things to a conclusion, but that article of the money, gives him a great deal of trouble. We are very much concerned, that we have not as yet settled with the Scidee that we may be enabled to put up the Stretham to freight ....

Surat Factory Diary, 9, pp. 228-30.

No. 186

SURAT .... MARCH, 1751-2

4th. The Factory surrounded as yesterday on sending to the Sciddee to know the reason, he sent word that several sepys and Topasses from the Vessels had been observed to come into Town and that he had set more Guards to prevent any of them coming to the Factory.

5th. The Factory surrounded as yesterday.

6th. The Factory surrounded as yesterday.

8th. The Scidee's Guards increased round the Factory, and suffer none but four Porsee Boays to go, and come to buy provisions.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 70.

9th. EVER since the 4th Instant the Factory has been closely surrounded by the Scidee's people, who with difficulty suffer even our servants and sepoys to pass, and repass for necessarys, I sent to the Scidee to know the reason of this, who only sent for answer that according to the present scituation of affairs he judged it necessary.

James Henry Lambe.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 71.

No. 187

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 5th MARCH, 1752.

Articles of Peace Agreed to between Henry Savage and Lawrence Sulliwan, in Behalf of the Honble Company, and Sciddee Mossoot Caun Governour of Surat.

Article 1st. The Treaty made by Mr. Lambe and Council, and witnessed by the European Chiefs to be null and void and the Thirty thousand Rupees then paid to Sciddee Mossoot Caun, includes our Pishcash &c to September next, till when nothing is to be demanded of us.

2nd. Two hundred thousand /200,00/ Rupees to be allowed and paid us immediately in consideration of our charges during this Warr, as also for the Losses in our Latty.

3rd. The Two Sons of Meah Atchund to have Posts of considerable Honour and Credit under the Government and granted at our Desire.

4th. All the Coaches, Oxen, Horses, &c taken from the English to be returned.

5th. The Company's Phirmand-Priviledges to be preserved to us in their full extent and our Goods to pass the Moola, or Water Gate Extent, as heretofore was customary.

6th. The Company's Garden & House, with whatever may belong to them, to be delivered up to us.

7th. Our Chief and People to be released, and our Latty with our Factory's to be secured to us.

8th. All Hostilities to cease, and all batteries to be taken away.

9th. All People under our protection that have absconded during the troubles, must be suffered to return & to remain in future without any molestation.

10th. The Castle to Sciddee Mossoot Caun & City to Suffdir Caun He also promised that Suffdir Caun shall be turned out as soon as he conviniently can, And in the most solemn manner, that the Dutch Wall shall be pulled down, adding it now became his Interest to do it.

Henry Savage.
Law. Sulivan.

No. 188

TRIUMPH PRAHN, SURAT RIVER, MARCH, 1751-2.

SIR,

AT 4 P. M. Several merchants from Surat came on board. After setting some time, they said, they were come to talk with us about the money we wanted from the Government, desiring that we would lessen the demand as the Scidee &c., would lay whatever we look upon all the subjects, and they were poor. We told them, the money we wanted was from the Scidee and we were not acquainted in what manner he proposed raising it nor did it concern. We thought to have had the thanks of the whole town for being satisfied with so small a sum (which was not near so much as the Company had suffered) to give Peace to the City also for suffering their Ships to go from Bombay which he might have detained till everything was finished, they talked a great deal to little purpose, but when they were going away, we found their Chief design in coming was to see if we would take their writings for the money to be paid in a short time as the raising it immediately would be very difficult but they not

speaking plain to us upon this subject, we referred them to Scidee Mossoot, as we know nobody but him. We judge now our business will not be long in settling as they promised tomorrow to talk with the Scidee who will press them very hard, as he seems to be as anxious as we are to finish.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, pp. 231-2.

No. 189

TRIUMPH PRAHN, SURAT RIVER, MARCH, 1751-2.

TUESDAY 10th.

THIS morning the Scidee's Secretary and son came on board and told us the Scidee had ordered them to come to talk with us about the article of Money, which was the only thing that remained to adjust, the people having been very pressing with him to desire us to make the sum less and which he now recommended to us after talking a great while, We consented to take one hundred and ninety thousand Rupees and accordingly altered the Article in our Agreement and delivered it to them pressing it very hard that the Caun would put an end to this affair which they promised, and as the whole could not be paid in ready money, We agree to take part of it in notes from all the merchants to be paid in a few months. Received the following from Mr. Lambe dated this day.

SIRS,

THIS morning the Scidee sent me word he was going to send the Company's Coaches and oxen to the Factory and about Noon they came being three Coaches and two pair of oxen much in the same condition as when they were carried away..

James Henry Lambe.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, pp. 234-5.

No. 190

SURAT .... MARCH, 1751-2.

AT NIGHT arrived a Pattamar Boat from Bombay with the Hon'ble the President and Council's commands under the 14th Instant.

It will be very satisfactory to hear that you have come to an accomodation with Scidee Mossoot with the abatement of Ten Thousand (10,000) Rupees of what first stipulated. For if matters are not made up very speedily all advantages of Trade will be entirely lost for this seasson, and should we be disappointed of Cotton ....

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 256.

No. 191

SURAT .... MARCH, 1751-2.

SUNDAY 22nd.

IN the afternoon Scidee Mossoot paid us a visit for the last time, when he desired, we recommend to Mr. Crommelin to live in the strictest friendship with him which he should on his part strictly keep up to, We presented him with two horses, cloth and kincobs and a small present to Scidee Sabaun the Secretary, and Scidee Kellell' his son. The Scidee made a proposition to us in secret that was as he says backed by a request from the general under Sabalad Jaing. To join our power with the Portugueze, Scidee's and Sabalad Jaing to destroy the Morattas which would go easily be effected, by attacking by sea and the Mogul Army. To induce us to this step, he insinuated that the Morattas would soon attempt Bombay, all this we put off by declaring we had no power to treat of such matters, but that we would inform the Governour and Council of the whole.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, pp. 259-60.

No. 192

SURAT .... MARCH, 1751-2.

MONDAY 23rd.

IT is necessary that we give you our opinion of the prevailing Powers in this City, and the measures proper to be continued for preserving the public tranquillity. Scidee Mossoot is undoubtedly Master of the whole and although Sufdir Caun is honoured with the name of Governour, yet he is still excluded the Durbar and Alli Nuas Caun a creature of Mossoot's sits there whence we may conclude that Sufdir Caun will not be long in the City, and indeed we have our reasons for being of this opinion, therefore it will be highly your interest to cement with Scidee Mossoot and place no confidence in Sufdir Caun, at the same time you treat him with all outward respect and civility. The Persons that seem most in the Scidee's confidence (though in reality he acts alone) are Alli Nouas Caun, Scidee Sabaun, the Persian Secretary and Scidee Hillol. The first of these we know very little of, he is a nephew of Atchund's and respected by the soldiers, but the three last are the men who have greatly interested themselves to bring about a Peace, and with them only we have transacted the Government affairs.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 2.

No. 193

SURAT .... MARCH, 1751-2.

MONDAY 23rd.

TRANSLATE OF THE original Articles of Peace executed by Scidee Mossoot Caun and Sufdir Caun being wrote with the latter's hand in Persians and sealed with the former's seal.

1st. The Peace made by Mr. Lambe and Council to be void and of no effect, and the papers to be torn, and a new receipt given for the Customs.

AGREED that it to be void and a new receipt shall be given as soon as the year is expired.

2nd. TWO lacs of Rupees to be paid the Hon'ble Company for the Expenses they have been at and what lost in the Latty, the whole sum to be paid in ready money.

Whatever people think proper, must be done to satisfie them.

3rd. For the Company's sake creditable posts must be given to Meah Atchund sons.

AGREED for the Company's sake to give them the post of Lord Mayor.

4th. The Company's Garden, Cows, Coaches &c taken from us to be returned.

AGREED that the Cauns, Coaches, Horses &c., be returned and a receipt taken.

5th. The Company's business to go on agreeable to their Phirmaund Priviledges, and all goods to be passed by the Moolahs Gate.

According to custom everything will go on, and nothing unjust will be done, and perhaps better than before.

6th. Mr. Lambe and the rest of the Company's people that are in Town are not to be hindered from coming to us. From the Government no hindrance or harm will happen to them.

7th. The Guards that are set about the Company's House to be taken away and after this the like not to happen again, and all the Batteries within and without that have been made upon this occasion to be taken down which will be for the good of the people and prevent further disputes.

The Batteries shall be taken away and nothing remain that may cause any difference between us.

8th. All servants and dependants upon the Company that are now in fear are not to be molested and after this upon no account whatever no harm is to be done to them.

WHATEVER has been customary we may be assured, shall be complied with.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, pp. 3-5.

No. 194

SURAT .... MARCH, 1751-2.

MONDAY 23rd.

TRANSLATE OF SCIDEE Mossoot Caun and Merchants Writing for Two Lacs of Rupees to be paid in the space of one year.

SERVANT of the King Scidee Mossoot Caun given this writing for two Lacks of Rupees that was agreed upon to be paid the English on making Peace. The Merchants and subjects of Surat have given me one for this sum and settled with me. For this reason I on the part of the people at Surat am bound that in the space of one year I am to pay this sum to the Company. These few lines are wrote by way of bond.

Dated the 15th of Jemandell Avell 1165.

SEALED by Scidee Mossoot Caun and eleven of the principal Inhabitants and the Heads of the Caste.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, pp. 5-6.

No. 195

SURAT .... MARCH, 1751-2.

TUESDAY 24th.

RECEIVED A letter from the late Committee dated at the Barr wherein they acquaint us of their having delivered Forty Barrel of Gunpowder to Scidee Mossoot request we would receive the amount and credit the Presidy for it.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 7.

No. 196

SURAT .... MARCH, 1751-2.

TUESDAY 24th.

THE day after our arrival we had various messages from the Scidee requesting that we would pay Sufdir Caun a visit, to which we consented on a promise that he should return ours the next morning and this was granted. We were attended here by Suffdir Mossoot when Sufdir Caun, after entrating our Friendship and that we would forget everything made voluntarily a most solemn protestation, that during this life he would never offend the English and pressing that our hands might be joined in his, in token of Friendship, We consented as indeed, it was unavoidable without bringing on a rupture and if the terms of Peace are preserved by all parties, it is of little consequence to the Hon'ble Company who is Governour of the City.

It is evidently the interest of Scidee Mossoot to unite with us in the strongest manner and while he holds his present Power, it is as clear that we ought to keep fast with him. To prevent our being detained here (a point we have with much difficulty got over). We have promised everything in behalf of Mr. Crommelin and at Mossoot's earnest request have joined their hands in friendship and as we have fully explained to Mr. Crommelin the situation of affairs here and the several interests, we are persuaded that he will be very agreeable to the Scidee and his confidents with whom we have also united him so that as long as Mossoot's power exists, we may depend upon that the Hon'ble Company's affairs will go well in this City.

SCIDEE MOSSOOT earnestly solicits us to spare him some gunpowder. We have given him 40 Barrels and he further requests that his agent be supplied at Bombay with Guns shot and other materials for building the King's Fleet, all which he will pay for in ready money.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, pp. 263-4.

No. 197

SURAT.......................... APRIL, 1752.

TUESDAY 14th.

The Scidee has paid us six thousand nine hundred and sixty seven Rupees in part of the two Lacks stipulated in the late Treaty, and promises to pay us more daily, which we shall press him to do.

Charles Crommelin.
&C &C.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 24.

No. 198

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 8th MAY, 1752.

The President acquaints the Board, that Application has been made by Sciddee Yaucood Caun at Gingerah & Sciddee Mossoot at Surat, for 200 maunds of Powder, and in order to cement our present, Friendship with the Sciddee's and as we can conviniently spare that quantity out of our Saluting Powder—It is agreed to send it to the Sciddee at Gingerah by a Gallivat of his laying here, He giving us a Draught on Sciddee Mossoot at Surat for the amount.

Public Department Diary, 25, p. 169.

No. 199

SURAT............................MAY, 1752.

SATURDAY 16th.

LATE this evening the Scidee sent to acquaint the Chief he had received a letter from the Mogull and as he had summoned all the Principal Merchants to attend tomorrow morning to see it opened and read he desired Jaggernaut might also be present.

Jaggernaut being returned from the Scidee's acquaints us the letter read this day in publick was not from the Mogull but Nannah importuning the Scidee for the payement of the two and a quarter Lacks he had promised him. This appears to us to be a contrivance of the Scidee's to make the Inhabitants (from the seeming urgent necessity there is for expeditiously collecting this money) more easily submit to the General Tax he designs laying on the Towne.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 52.

No. 200

SURAT............................MAY, 1752.

MONDAY 18th.

A valuation has been made of the Horses presented the Committee by the Scidee and Suffdir Caun and are esteemed altogether to be worth no more three hundred and fifty Rupees, every one of them being very faulty, they were valued singly, that received from Sufdir Caun at one hundred Rupees, one of those from Scidee Mossoot at a hundred Rupees... For their amount the Presidency shall be credited.

Scidee Mossoot still keeping all authority in his own hands. He has several times summoned the Merchants to His House in order to lay a general Tax on the Town for raising the two and a quarter Lack of Rupees promised the Morattas but it being a very odious and oppressive method he meets with many difficulties and it is not yet fixed, but we fear will be very shortly the apprehensions of which have drove the Inhabitants to Broach and other parts.

Charles Crommelin.
&ca.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, pp. 52-3.

No. 201

SURAT............................MAY, 1752.

TUESDAY 19th.

AT A CONSULTATION PRESENT

CHARLES CROMMELIN ESQR. CHIEF

MESSRS. PETER ELVIN WRENCH AND SAMUEL COURT.

Read and approved our last consultation.

THE CHIEF acquaints the Gentlemen that for several days past the Scidee has constantly sent to desire that Jaggernaut as our Broker might attend the Merchants at his House for laying a general Tax on the Town that till now he had evaded it, but being closely pressed by the Scidee to send him as our broker or permit him to go as Head of the Banian Caste and having received a letter to the same purport from the head of the Morattas in Town (Extract of the translate is entered hereafter) he called this meeting to come to a determinate resolution how to act in this affair. IT IS OBSERVED that as we have no business to interfere in anything of this nature our permitting Jaggernaut to seat at the general Taxation with any authority from us can be looked upon no otherwise by the Inhabitants than either as the consequence of our having been aiding in advising the Scidee to an action so odious or as a mean and fearful condescension, either of which must greatly discredit us in the eyes of the Merchants but it is likewise observed an absolute refusal to let Jaggernaut go at all who as Head of the Banian Caste is in some measure obliged to give his attendance, may disgust the Scidee and irritate him to injure us, by taxing the merchants under our protection or stopping the payment of the money he is indebted to the Hon'ble Company; therefore if possible both extremes should be avoided. After deliberating some time it is agreed Mr. Court be sent to represent to the Scidee how unreasonable it is in him to expect we should meddle in this affair, but should the Scidee urge it is requisite Jaggernaut as head of the Banian Caste should attend (exclusive of any authority from us) we cannot refuse him, but Mr. Court is precautioned to use all proper persuasions to make him acquiesce to Jaggernaut absenting himself, We think it expedient at the same time that Mr. Court inform the Scidee whatever may be determined in respect to the Tax, we expect all people under our protection shall be exempted and his acting otherwise will be looked upon by us, as a breach of Friendship, being directly contrary to the 8th Article of the late Treaty

of Peace, and to remind him how slowly he performs his promise for the payment of the two lacks of Rupees.

Charles Crommelin.
Peter Elvin Wrench.
Samuel Court.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, pp. 53-4.

No. 202

SURAT..............................MAY, 1752.

WEDNESDAY 20th.

MR. COURT this morning went to the Scidee agreeable to our Resolution in yesterday's Consultation. On his return he acquainted us that the Scidee was very urgent in requesting that Jaggernaut as authorised by us, might attend at the laying the Tax but finding we were absolutely bent to refuse him, he then began to reason that head of the Bannian Caste Jaggernaut's presence could not be dispensed with which Mr. Court after many effectless arguments to evade it, was necessitated to comply that as much without any authority from us Jaggernaut might attend according to his instructions Mr. Court informed the Scidee we expected all people under our protection should be exempted from the Tax, the Scidee assured him no molestation should be offered any of our dependants on that or any other account that we need not apprehend from him any attempt to the infringment of our privileges and expressed himself very desirous of continuing in Friendship with us. On Mr. Court's mentioning to him how slowly the sum stipulated in the Treaty of Peace was paid in, he urged that his utmost endeavours to discharge that debt quicker were not wanting that three thousand Rupees should be paid us this afternoon and as fast as he possibly could collect the remainder we might depend on receiving it.

PER PATTAMAR advised the Hon'ble the President and Council at Bombay the purport of our yesterdays consultation and Mr. Court's visit to the Scidee.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, pp. 56-7.

No. 203

BOMBAY CASTLE, DATED 29th MAY, 1752.

Honble Sir & Sirs,

The Enquiry contains few Extracts, and those of only very small parts of our Addresses to Your Honour &c and your answers to them upon the subject of the Surat Troubles and from the 5th April only, tending to

shew that your Orders were very positive and frequent for observing a strict Neutrality and it aims at shewing that our not taking requisite pains to convince the Sciddee that this was your design brought on the Rupture between us— It likewize Charges us with putting the Company to an unnecessary expence by enlisting 400 Peons which you disapproved of. It further endeavours to shew that after the Rupture, you still resolved to observe a strict neutrality, which our Representations of the Situation of Affairs obliged you at last to break. It further charges us with neglecting to accept the advantageous conditions of Peace when tendered us by the Sciddee—and further charges us with great mismanagement in the course of the War, when entered into—To all which Points we shall separately and particularly reply, and make no doubt we shall plainly shew that in the whole course of our transactions, we have acted strictly conformable to your Honour &c Orders, and that it was not our Mismanagement, that brought the misfortunes to the Honble Company's Affairs that happened during the Surat Troubles.

The first part of the Enquiry runs thus—

"You advise us under the 5th April of a War, which had broke out "in Surat and a body of Malcontents headed by Sciddee Mossoot, Ali "Nowas Khan &c that you were putting the Factory in a posture of "Defence & as you are expected the Convoy from the Northward, you did "[illegible] esteem yourselves in any Danger.

"To this you were answered, that as you had sufficient Forces to defend "the Factory, you were to observe strict neutrality.

"You advised us under the 9th of some skirmishes that had happened "between the contending Parties, repeat your being in a good posture of "defence your Vessels at hand, and that you had possession of the Water "Gate.

"Upon which we again enjoined you to observe a strict neutrality.

"The 13th you enclosed us Atchund's proposal for delivering up the "Castle, to which you were answered that it must unavoidable engage us "Parties in a War, at a time of the Year, we could not support you, were "we inclined.

"You wrote us under the 17th that you were well informed of the "Sciddee's intentions to burn the Factory, which you could not prevent "and defend yourselves at the same time, with the Forces you then had.

"Upon which we came to a Resolution of sending you a Reinforcement, "if possible before the Rains, & some Boats offering for Surat, 200 men "were sent you so late as the middle of May to protect and defend the "Factory.—

"From the above it is evident how incumbent it was on you to have "implicitly complied with our Orders and Injunctions for observing the "strictest neutrality, you did not take that pains which was requisite to

"convince him of the contrary—This created an innate Jealousy and Heart "burning, which at length broke out into an open Rupture on the 2nd "June, upon a very trivial occasion, and who were the Aggressors we are "at a loss to know, as the Sciddee and you reciprocally complain of each "other."

In answer to this we beg leave to trace the late troubles from their first rise—Ever since Suffdir Caun had been turned out of Government of Surat by the Honble Company's Arms in the year 1748—Some remains of that Party had been permitted to continue in the City, tho' known to hate Meah Atchund's Government, why he permitted them, it is difficult to say; however in the month of February 1749/50 that he began to be apprehensive of the Remains of that party as appears by his Letter to the late Governor Mr. Wake then received, which was taken little notice of at that time. Some time after this Meah Atchund, was disgusted with two of his principal Officers, who he only turned out of his Service, but did not plunder them, so the dismissing them only served to strength the discontented party.

From that time the Governour Meah Atchund, used frequently to express himself to the Chief, afraid of evil designs of the Malcontents and used to enquire whether we were satisfied with his Conduct and would be his Friends; To which he was answered in the affirmative by several Letters from the late Governour of Bombay, and with reason as he did whatever we desired of him, and was a real friend to us. It is well known at whose desire he prevented the Dutch to carry on the strong Wall they were building before their Bunder, and why he discouraged the Swedish trade contrary to his own Interest. As it was his Interest to publish the Assurances he had of our Friendship, so he constantly published them, In the beginning of January 1750/51 Meah Atchund was discontented with the Head Officer Ali Novas Caun and under the 8th we inform you of Atchund's turning him out of his Service, and of his taking refuge at Sciad Zein's House where the other discontented Officers had before taken Refuge, We likewize mention the Sciddee's breaking open one of the City Gates to let in Ali Novas Caun's Horses &c which convinced the whole Town, matters must soon come to an open Rupture. In answer to this Letter to the 17th Janry, Your Honour &c direct, us not to make ourselves Party's in the dispute but to use all good Offices in our power towards bringing them to an happy issue In obedience to these Commands, and all the Principal Merchants of the city desiring to meet at the English Factory, to consult about the proper methods of getting the Ghenims out of the Town, and of accomodating matters between the Sciddee and the Governor they were permitted to meet these, in hopes this meeting might prevent a Rupture— At the meeting they begged that our Moody /who was always sent to the Durbar/ might be permitted to go with them to

the Sciddee, to tell him, that the Gov would not protect his disobedient Officers and likewise further to endeavour to prevent their coming to an open Rupture by all mild measures— The Sciddee refused to see the Merchants, but at their desire we sent the Moddy to him, who promised that Ali Novas Caun should leave the town in a few days. The Merchants when they heard the Sciddee's answer desired leave to meet at the Factory again on 4th February which we permitted, and then again at their desire sent the Moody to the Sciddee who again put off Ali Novas Caun's Departure. This we informed your Honor &c of the same day, and at the same time mentioned that the Merchants hinted they were desirous of our assisting Meah Atchund, and were willing to pay any Charges that might attend our so doing, but we excused ourselves from listening to any such proposals, at the same time assuring them of our readiness to use our endeavours to promote the General Good of the City— Under the 13th Febry you acknowledge the receipt of ours of the 4th Febry and add "We hope Atchund and the Malcontents will not come to extremitys before our Ships arrive at the Bar, which will leave the place in a few days and we make no doubt but you will then be able to command a peace by assuring them that our Forces shall oppose the Aggressor." under the 6th March, after the arrival of the Ships mentioned in yours of the 13th February which Ships brought us a Mortar & Shells and Relief to the Factory Detachment and the Detachment of the Vessels in the Surat Station, so that we had then double the number Military usual; We wrote your Honor &c as follows: "Attchund and the Malcontents have been duly acquainted that we shall oppose the Aggressor with our Forces, if they proceed to Extremitys As yet they have not come to blows, but Suffdir Caun's Slaves, Under the Sciddees Protection are daily raising Men, and Ali Novas Caun is with them, & still refuses to depart the Town We don't apprehend there is any probability of their soon coming to an open Rupture, but shall carefully watch their motions and endeavour all in our power to preserve peace between them." Under the 13th March you acknowledge Receipt of Ours of the 6th wherein we inform you that we had acquainted them that we should oppose the Aggressors with our Forces and permit us to keep the Bombay Grab and True Briton for some time, as you say, it seemed absolutely necessary we should have some force at the Bar— Under the 5th April we acquainted your Honour &c that the Troubles had broke out Between Atchund and the Sciddee and that we were putting the Factory in a posture of Defence. Under the 6th we informed your Honor &c of Atchunds losing the Durbar, and of the Sciddee's declarg Suffdir Caun Governor of the Town.— Sometime before the rupture the Honble the President wrote the Sciddee that the English would never suffer him to molest Meah Atchund; We cannot tell the exact time this Letter was wrote, nor the express words of it, as Copy was only

transmitted to the deceased Chief, who then shewed it to us The above circumstances are sufficient Reasons for such heartburning and Jealousy subsisting between us and the Sciddee as no assurances that we could make that we should strictly observe a neutrality could possibly eradicate, and therefore it is not at all surprizing that when we gave them those assurances, they should not have the desired Effect. If your Honour &c will please to consider that the Sciddee was engaged against and endeavouring to turn out of the Government of Surat, Meah Atchund a Man fixed in it by the Honble Company's Arms and who had proved himself a fast friend to the English by doing everything they desired for a long time— That he had declared Suffdir Caun Governor of the Town, who had been turned out of the Government by the Honble Company's Forces about three Years before, who by a Treaty made, at the close of that War, & then subsisting was never to return to Surat, and from whom, as he returned by force of Arms and contrary to that Treaty made with us, we had just Reason to expect everything that was bad, as a retaliation for the harm we had done him. That the Sciddee had been wrote, that the English would not suffer him to molest Atchund and that we had positively declared by your Honor &c Order, that we should oppose the Aggressor with our Forces which was the same as declaring war against him. That all the Heads of the Sciddee's Party were Men who had been turned out of the best Posts in the Government which they enjoyed under Suffdir Caun, by the English in 1748 and were very inveterate against us for their sufferings; In short if your Honor &c will please to consider that the Hon Company's Honour and Credit were actually lost, and all their Phirmaund Privileges greatly at stake by Suffdir Cauns being introduced without your leave and without a previous Agreement, into the Government; Your Honor &c cannot impute the Sciddees Jealousy and Heartburning to any other cause than to the sense the Sciddee had of the dishonour and danger; he brought on the Hon Company's Affairs in the City of Surat and to the insence and politick a Man must naturally draw; viz. that you would not suffer it but would oppose his measures.

There is a further circumstance that gave cause for a fixed Jealousy and Heart burning between us which it is not improper to mention on this occasion. In the War in 1748, in which Suffdir Caun was turned out of Government by the English Forces and Meah Atchund was made Governor, the Sciddee was our pretended ally; His Forces marched out with Ours, when they atacked Suffdir Caun, but instead of being of any assistance; they only watched an opportunity to hurt our Forces. His Men it is said, shot one of the Bombay Seepoys & his treachery was at last so publickly known, that one of the Bombay Seepoys actually levelled his Musquet at the Sciddees Head and would have killed him, had not one of our Officers turned the Musquet in the Air; This Treachery was ever after

remembered and constantly talked of publickly in the Town by our People.

In your Commands of the 23 May, your Honour &c express yourselves fully satisfied that the Sciddee's Government would not be so favourable to the Honble Company's Affairs as Meah Atchunds, and you therein express yourself suspicious of his evil designs, and caution us against them, mentioning a Letter detected by you, wherein the Sciddee's Vackeel advises him to cut off the Reinforcement sent us, as it was coming up the River, so that your Honour &c gave sufficient Reason to be jealous of him.—

Though the several Extracts are inserted in the Enquiry to shew that it was the fixed design of your Honour &c to observe strict Neutrality, your Orders of the 23rd May 1751 are as follows:—"We wrote you last the "16th instant by Capt. James Stirling, under whose command we send a "Detachment consisting of one hundred Military & one hundred Seepoys, "whom we hope are safely arrived with you".—

"This is dispatched by a Pattamar to advise you that the Chiefs Letter to the Honble the President relating to our taking possession of the Castle, provided Atchund can no longer maintain it, has been laid before the Board, & which having been duly weighed and considered, We are of Opinion, that such a step requires the greatest Caution and Conduct, and ought not on any consideration be entered into by us so long as it can be possibly avoided; but if Atchund should be so hard pressed, as not to be able to hold out any longer against the Enemy, we permit you to take possession of the Castle in the Moguls Name, and then only at Atchunds particular request, and upon his entering into a written Obligation to defray all Expences; You must also have concurrence of the whole Body of Merchants by a writing under their Seals—Altho' we have given you the above Latitude, you are not to be too Sanguine, or hasty in putting it into Execution, but wait until the matters are carried to the last extremity, when it becoming unavoidable for us to remain Neuter, We judge it more for the Hon Company's Interest & Honour, for you to take possession of it untill we hear from Court, than to let it fall into the hands of the Sciddee, from whose behaviour since the commencement of the War, we have great reason to apprehend, that should he get into the quiet possession of Surat Government, we shall not be able to carry on our Trade in that free and reputable manner as is consistent with the Hon Company's Honour and their Phermaund Priviledges—Secrecy above all things is absolutely necessary, & which we recommend to you, for should it come to the knowledge of the Sciddee, the Hon Company's Effects and your own Lives may be endangered, & as you are on the Spot, We leave it to you to act as may be most conducive to the Company's Interest, and as circumstances may require, but as above strictly enjoin you not to engage in the troubles,

untill matters are carried to the very last extremity, and Atchund can hold out no longer.— We would not have you enter into any engagement for fixing him in the Durbar, as we judge the Force we have with you not sufficient to effect it, for by dividing them into small parties, they run a risque of being cut off.— You must also be careful of Sciddee Mossoot, as the Honble the President has lately intercepted a Letter from his Agent here wherein he advises the Sciddee to cut off the Detachment lately sent to Surat, in their Passage up the River." These plainly express that you thought it more for the Hon Company's Interest openly to engage the Sciddee, & the Malcontents and let the Hon Company's Factory & Effects run the hazard of the chance of War, than let the Castle and entire Government of the Town fall into the hands of the Sciddee & Suffdir Caun, and therefore you gave us permission to take possession of the Castle, and openly engage in the trouble when Atchund was drove to the last Extremity's.—

It may not be improper to observe that it was but seven days after the arrival of Capt. Stirling with the Reinforcement, and but four days after we received your Honour &c Orders of the 23rd May, giving us permission to take possession of the Castle, that the Sciddee attacked the Factory; Which considering the traiterous Correspondence that had been carried on by Coja Vertannes by means of Nasserwanjee Bomanjee, which we accidentally discovered, as mentioned in our Address of the 3rd May, /which enclosed Copys & Translates of the Letters detected/ gives room to suspect that the Sciddee had some hints from the same hands of a suspicion of some design to oppose his measures & that he therefore so soon afterwards attacked the Factory.—

Your Honour &c seem to give Credit to the Sciddee's complaints of our throwing supplies into the Castle & seem to blame us for so doing on a supposition that we did; Though we threw no supplies into the Castle, we cannot help remarking that by your of the 23rd May, you thought it by no means agreeable to the Company's Interest or for their Credit to let the Castle fall into the Sciddees hands, & that we ought at the same time to avoid coming to an open rupture as long as possible; Therefore as secretly throwing Supplies into the Castle was the most likely method to effect both these, if we really had thrown any in, it could not reasonably have been disapproved of.—

Our Letter of the 3rd June fully mentions, in what manner the Sciddee attacked the Factory on the 2nd June to which we can add nothing & only assure your Honour &c that what we there say, is true, & we hope that what we say on this Head will meet with as much belief from your Honour &c as what an inveterate Enemy says of us; more especially if your Honour &c will please to consider, that it was the interest of every one of us, to have kept peace, our Fortunes being at stake.—

The next point to be answered is the enlisting 400 Peons unnecessarily, The Enquiry says, "Under the 22nd May you wrote of your enlisting 400 Country Seepoys, which we entirely disapproved of, it putting the Hon Company to a great Expence for people, whose attachment and fidelity, could not be relied on, as in all probability sequel will demonstrate our apprehensions had the strongest foundation." Your Honour &c observe that our Letter of the 5th April says, that we esteemed the Factory to be in no danger, which that of the 9th repeats; But that the Letter of the 17th which mentions the information we had received of the Sciddee's intentions to burn the Factory, says, we could not at the same time defend ourselves and prevent their burning the Factory; This your Honr. &c think strange, considering what we wrote under the 5th and 9th.— If your Honr. &c will please to have recourse to our Address of the 13th, and the Report of Messrs Delagarde's & Hunt's Conference with Meah Atchund, they will show how weak Atchund really was, tho' he talked high to the Sciddee, & made a bold stand in the Castle; It was Atchunds weakness, & the Sciddee & Malcontents being grown so much stronger from the 9th to the 17th that made the difference in our situation, and made us esteem ourselves incapable of defending the Factory, with the Force which we before thought sufficient. This made us dispatch the Bombay Grab to your Honour &c on the 17th April 1751 immediately after her arrival at Surat, with Orders to go directly to Bombay, being in hopes of your Honour &c returning her with a Reinforcement, to defend the Factory, as enough of the Fair Season was then left for her to have been returned to us, if she had sailed immediately; but notwithstanding these our Orders, which we acquainted your Honour &c of on the 13th April, the Grab lay then at the Bar, & wasted the time in cruizing off Nunsaree for several days afterwards, so that the fair Season was so far elapsed, when she arrived at Bombay, that she could not possibly be returned to Surat from the Rains, so as to have gone back again to Bombay without a great risque; There appearing therefore to us, no method of getting a reinforcement from Bombay, if upon further consideration your Honour &c had thought proper to send us any, tho' you had wrote us under the 18th April, that you had no forces to spare, and even if you had, it would be impossible from the lateness of the Season, We came to a Resolution on the 3rd May to enlist a number of Seepoys to place round the Factory and informed your Honour &c by Letter of that our Resolution on the same Day, which Letter your Honour &c acknowledged Receipt of in your Orders of the 2nd May, in which you don't disapprove of that resolution, tho' if your Honour &c had immediately on receipt of our Advice, that we had come to such a Resolution, dispatched express Advice of your Disapproval of it ....

The next point your Honour &c blame us for not transmitting you the

Treaty concluded with Mahmud Bocar Caun and the Sciddee so expeditiously as we ought— This was followed by a Treaty "concluded the day after the Action, a copy of which we did not receive from you, untill the 1st July following, but as the President had a copy from a private hand, & we found you were only obliged not to assist Meah Atchund, we approved it, it being consistent with our repeated Orders to you to observe a strict Neutrality—" The Treaty was near agreed upon the 3rd June, but was not finally concluded till the 11th June on which Day we sent your Honour &c Copy of it by a Pattamar of the Sciddees whose Interest it was to take care it arrived soon, & we cannot account for its arriving so late as the 1st July— We wrote your Honour &c as often as we could, in the Situation our Factory was at that time, when Letters could only be conveyed away by stealth, as appears by our Letters of the 3rd, 6th, 11th, 15th, 22nd & 26th June.

The Enquiry next says "Shortly after you requested we would send you a reinforcement, and desired to know if you might enlist more Seepoys."

"In answer to which you were acquainted, that you yourselves well knew it was impracticable for us to assist you at that Season of the Year, and as we judged you had people sufficient to defend the Factory we could not approve your enlisting more Seepoys." This we apprehend you take from our Advices of the 11th June which your Honour &c misunderstand, as we there say, "Tho' it is not expresly mentioned in the Treaty, that we should give up the Key, yet we are well assured, if we do not, it will in the end occasion a fresh rupture with the Sciddee; if we give up the Key our retreat and all communication with our Vessels is then cut off, & if we are afterwards attacked, and have the worst of the engagement, we shall be without resourse of your Honour &c find means and think proper to send us up any reinforcement, it will be proper for us to have notice of it, some time before their arrival, If the Sciddee gets intelligence of it, even a few hours before their Arrival, he will attack us, & we may not be able to hold out, till the reinforcement arrives, in which case we shall be obliged to make retreat by Water to the Castle, At the same time we think that the Fidelity of the Sciddee is not to be relied on, in keeping this Treaty, as we judge he made it only to prevent his Designs against the Castle being delayed, which they would be, if a small number of the Honble Company's Forces had made their retreat thither. We cannot help remarking to your Honour &c that it appears to us very strange, that our Officers, should think it necessary for us to have 5000 additional Forces to act offensively against the Enemy, whose whole Force cannot exceed 6 or 7000 Men; especially as they all frequently declared before the engagement, that one hundred Men would be sufficient to bring the Sciddee out of his Quarters; and from the Sciddee's own Confession to Mons, Moucard, as well as

Azar Razar the Persian Agent, his Declaration, who was actually present with him during the engagement, He was under the greatest apprehensions while our Military advanced upon him, And had Capt. Sterling not retreated in great disorder to his Quarters before he had lost a Man /for the two he lost were in the retreat/ we have great reason to believe that we should have got the better for the Enemy did not enter the Houses round Ours, till after Capt. Sterlings retreat.

"We desire to know whether your Honour &c will permit us to enlist any more Country Peons, if we find they will be of Service"— In which your Honour &c will please to observe that we don't request any reinforcement, but that we say, if your Honour &c think proper to send us any, it will be necessary for us to have notice of your design. We had reason to believe you would think of sending us a reinforcement sooner or later, as your letter of the 23rd May plainly shewed you would not, let the Sciddee get possession of the Castle, if you could prevent it by force & therefore we mentioned this as a necessary precaution As to the enlisting of more Seepoys, We desire to know, whether we might enlist any more, if we find they will be of Service, and this we asked because it was the opinion of Officers, then in the Factory, that the Force we had was not sufficient to defend it, as appears by their Letter transmitted your Honour &c But notwithstanding the opinion of the Officers, your Honour &c said you thought we had people sufficient to defend the Factory, & refused us leave to enlist any more, even if we found they would be of service.

The Enquiry next adds, "This plainly indicated our intention for your remaining neuter, notwithstanding which you shortly after write us to know, whether you should retire to the Castle, confessing that in such case the Hon Company's and private property, which was very considerable would be inevitably lost.

"This we approved of at the juncture, partly for the above reason & as a miscarriage might have proved at that time fatal to your Lives, and all those of the Factory & Dependents, and the Season of the Year not admitting of our supporting you".— In reply to which We say, that if it was your Honour &c intentions, that we should remain neuter, we did remain so, untill we received your Honour &c Orders to break the Neutrality & attack the Sciddee in September. The reason why we requested your Honour &c Directions whether to retire to the Castle or no, was because we had reason to believe we should be attacked sooner or later, when the Hon Company's Factory & Effects would most probably have been lost, as it was the Officers Opinion that we could not defend the Factory & because it appeared from Meah Atchunds Representations of his Situation at that time, that if we did not then retire to the Castle, it would have fallen into the Sciddee's hands, which your commands of the 23rd May shew you thought would be extraordinary prejudicial to the

Hon Company's Affairs; We therefore desired your Directions, whether you thought it was better to give up the Factory and Effects at a time when you had goods of the Sciddee & the Officers of his Party to a large amount in your Power and prevent the Castle falling into his hands, or to put ourselves almost entirely in his Power, as it was the Officers Opinions we could not defend the Factory against him, in hopes of saving the Factory and Effects. Under the 11th July your Honour &c disapproved of our leaving the Factory and retiring to the Castle, saying that as we had not informed you how we were to get possession of it.— Our Address of the 30th July expressly says, that Atchund was willing to receive us on any Terms, as the only method he thought of saving his life, & by your Commands of the 23rd May, it appears you did not find any difficulty in getting possession of it. It was our Duty to state our situation to your Honour &c which havg. done and received your Honour &c Directions, we strictly followed them.

The next Paragraph of the Enquiry is, "Your Letters from that time to September are filled with your apprehensions of the Sciddees intentions to attack the Factory, adding withal that you knew of no expedient for recovering to the Hon Company, the Heavy Expence incurred by them on this occasion, but our taking possession of the Castle, this obliged us to come to a resolution of sending you a strong reinforcement with discretional orders to effect the same, and act as might be most for our Honble Master's Interest, & we are assured that on its first arrival & even before Capt. Lane entered the Castle with a Party of Men, Sciddee Mossoot tendered you very advantageous conditions & indeed would have come into any reasonable Terms. Had this been properly adhered to, it would have prevented great Effusion of Blood and Expence of Treasure, but on the contrary, you drew most of the Men into the Factory, a sickly defenceless place, surrounded with Houses on all sides, & began to attack the Sciddee without ammunition, trusting your retreat to a parcel of Seepoys, Whom we had always expressed the greatest diffidence, & whom in the end revolted to the Enemy, & made a retreat impracticable, This and other mismanagements, particularly your not retiring to the Castle, on Capt. Lane's entering it, obliged you to come to a Treaty whereby you entirely gave up all the Hon Company's money expended on this unhappy Occasion, brought an indelible Stain on their Interest and Credit in Surat, & External Disgrace to the Nation", The Apprehensions we express, were founded on daily informations that we received of the Sciddees ill Designs against the Factory.— These it was your Duty to inform your Honour &c of, tho' they did not make us act in the least in such a manner as might occasion a breach in the neutrality. Your Honour observe that we say, That we could see no way of recovering to the Hon Company the heavy expence they had be at, but taking possession of the Castle, But

the paragraph on this Head in our Address of the 30th July runs thus, "As to the Hon Company's being reimbursed the heavy Expence, which they have been at to defend their Factory during these Troubles, Atchund is reinstated, we can see no way to recover it.—" nor did any other method occured to us; And this seems to have been nearly the Opinion of your Honour &c, For in your Commands of the 16th September you say, "Our taking possession of the Castle is the only expedient which you can think of for securing to the Hon Company the heavy Expences that these troubles have occasioned." What terms your Honour &c may have been assured that Sciddee Mossoot would have come into on the arrival of the reinforcement, we can't guess. The Terms that he declared himself, willing to come into your Honour &c are acquainted with in our Address of the 24th Ulto. He would only agree to reimburse the Hon Company 110000 rupees of the charges they had been at in the Troubles, and that only in 4 Years by Annual Payments of 10000 without giving any security for the payment of it in that manner, and for this we must have agreed to let Suffdir Caun be fixed in the Government of the Town: These Terms which did not come up to the Letter of your Orders & consequently could not be agreed to by us, there is reason to believe he only offered to get the reinforcement and our Forces away, without any thoughts of complying with them, That these were the best terms the Sciddee could be brought to, several Letters from Mr. Boucard, who was mediator between us and the Sciddee, to us will fully shew— We are not at all surprized that evil designing Persons should give your Honour &c such false informations, tho' we think it extremely hard that your Honour &c should seem to give Credit to them.—

Your Honour &c say your Orders to us were discretional; They run thus; We hope that in consequence of the late Cessation, Meah Atchund is still in possession of the Castle, & will not make any scruple against receiving the Hon Company's Forces, if necessary, but should he refuse it, or should the Sciddee have taken it, you must compel him to deliver it up, the manner of which carrying into execution, we leave to your prudence and discretion as you are on the spot & of course the best Judges how to act as Circumstances may require. Your taking possession of the Castle is the only Expedient which we can think of for securing to the Honble Company the Heavy Expences that these Troubles have occasioned. We do not propose herefrom to deprive Atchund thereof; our Intention is that he still continue Govr. of the Castle, but as Meer Alli Khan is very strenously recommended to be Govr. of the Town you are therefore if he is willing & capable of giving you suitable assistance & security for the Expence incurred to fix him in the Durbar but if he declines it, you may join with Nake Allum Khan the Govr. of Broach, he having wrote to the President of his design to march to Surat with a Body of

Men, agreeable to the Orders he had recd from Court for taking the City, and has likewise promised to defray all Expences.—

If Sciddee Mossoot will be satisfied to remain quiet in the same situation he was before the troubles began, we see no reason to dispute it, but you are on no account to give him any assurances of protection from us, on any occasions hereafter, as it is not improbable but he may make some such proposals in regard to the Morattas or Governor of Surat, who may have reason to be jealous of his Power and Ambition.—

"Thus much, we have thought necessary to direct you, but as above, we leave it to your prudence & discretion to act as Circumstances may require, keeping us constantly advised of your proceedings, that we may from time to time furnish you with such Orders as may appear to us suitable; and observing upon the whole, that you are not to deliver up the Castle, untill the Hon Company are fully reimbursed all their Expences, their Grants & priviledges confirmed to them, and the City of Surat settled in perfect Tranquility.—" These are positive with regard to what is to be done, tho' discretional with regard to the manner of doing it, And by these Orders we are absolutely directed in case the Sciddee had taken the Castle to compel him to deliver it up, but the manner of doing it is left to us. Your Honour blame us for several Errors in the Military Operations during the War:— all these we were governed by the Advice that the Military Officers gave the Chief; and everything was done as they advised.— Great part of the Men were drawn in the Factory in pursuance of the Scheme concerted in Consultation by all the Officers on Board the Grab, when Mr. De La Garde went down to her at Ombra, and the rest by the Advice of the Officers.— When the War began, we expected rather to have made an offensive than defensive War; It was judged we should have been able to have drove the Enemy from between the Castle and the Factory, by a joint Sally from the Castle and Factory at the same time but both the Sallies proved unsuccessful, and the enemy in the end had the advantage over us.— Our begining the War with so little Ammunition was owing to your Honr &c sending us so small a supply as 92 Barrels of Powder & as small a quantity of other necessary Stores, of all which as much was taken into the Factory as the Officers thought proper.— As this small Quantity of Powder and other Stores was designed by your Honour &c to take the Castle with, if it had been in the Sciddees hands, We, who were no Judges of Warlike Affairs, could not think it too little to begin to attack the Sciddee with, when he was not in possession of the Castle.— Placing the Mercenary Seepoys in so useful a Post for our retreat as the New Factory, proved unfortunate by their Desertion. The Detachment which came from the Castle under the Command of Ensigns Allen & Edgerton, the morning they deserted were sent for on purpose to be placed in the new Factory, where they let in the

Enemy.— If the Officers had advised the Chief; that that Detachment ought not to have been marched up to the Old Factory, that unfortunate Accident would not in all probability have happened; Whatever ill the placing the Seepoys in the new Factory was productive of; it is to be imputed to the Military Officers, who stationed all the Men, & not to the Chief or us.—

Your Enquiry mentions our not retreating to the Castle, when Capt. Lane entered it, as a mismanagement in us.— To this we answer, that having under the 26th June desired to know whether we might retire to the Castle & having under the 11th July received your Answer that we might not, we could not, after receiving a Reinforcement of Men & having besides possession of the Castle, think of giving up the Hon Company's Factory & Effects— If your Honour &c had thought proper to have given us such a lattitude, you would undoubtedly have advised us thereof; as you had before given us Orders not to quit the Factory: more especially as you had before reposed so little Trust in our Judgment as not to suffer us to enlist any more Seepoys, even if we found them necessary which we requested the 11th June and you desired the 26th following; But further & sufficient reason for not retiring to the Castle, when Captain Lane entered was, that the Officers were of Opinion, we should have been able to drove the Enemy from between the Castle and Factory & we were in great Hopes we should have proved stronger than they.— Further the whole Terror of your Letter of the 16th September, which gives Directions, as we had been in profound Peace fully shew your Honour &c did not design we should quit the Factory.— When we found we could not advance upon the Enemy, we resolved to retire to the Castle, but the Desertion of the Mercenaries cutt off our Communication with the Water-side, and rendered it impossible, in the opinion of the Officers to retire there.— After which the Men declared we must make peace, or they would ask Quarter of the Sciddee. This forced us to make the Peace, which was made, which cannot be looked upon in any other light than a forced Action of Ours.—

We have now answered the several points, which we are directed by the Enquiry to answer, and we hope we have fully cleared ourselves of any Charge of Breach of your Honour &c Orders, or Mismanagement in the conducting the Affairs under the Direction of the late Chief & Us.—

We are with great respect
HONBLE SIR and SIRS
Your most obedient humble Servants

Francis Pym
Dated, Bombay May the 25th 1752. **William De La Garde**
Titus Scott.

Public Department Diary, 25, pp. 191-208.

No. 204

SURAT..................................JULY, 1752.

TUESDAY 7th.

LETTER FROM BOMBAY.

WE are sorry to find the Scidee so tardy in his payments. You must continue your Solicitations to him on all convinient occasions.

Bombay Castle
June 27th 1752.

Richard Bourchier &c &ca.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 90.

No. 205

SURAT..................................JULY, 1752.

WEDNESDAY 15th.

THIS morning a multitude of the labouring Inhabitants in a riotous —menacing manner went to Sciad Zean (Head of the religion here) and insisted on his interceding with the Scidee to remit the General Tax which he accordingly did; and the Scidee to pacify them has been obliged to comply therewith and to deliver upto them the paper where each man's name was inserted that was to have paid part of the Tax.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 92.

No. 206

SURAT..................................JULY, 1752.

FRIDAY 31st.

ENCLOSED is Scidee Yacoob Khan's draught on Scidee Mossoot for two thousand four hundred (2400) Rupees, the amount of 200 Maunds of Gunpowder supplied the former which you must tender to the latter and we doubt not of his making any hesitation in discharging it, especially as it was his particular request to the President.

Bombay Castle,
July 23rd. 1752.

We are,
Your Loving Friends,
Richard Bourchier. &C &C.

Surat Factory Diary, 9, p. 96.

No. 207

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 22nd SEPTEMBER, 1752.

Sciddee Yaucood Caun—his request for money & Stores.

The President then acquaints the Board, that he has received Letters from Sciddee Yaucood Caun at Gingerah & Sciddee Mossoot at Surat,

representing to him that they are under great apprehensions from the Morattas and requesting that the former may be applied with Money & Stores to the amount of 25,000 Rupees for the payment of which he has given us a draught on Sciddee Mossoot at Surat.

Which being taken into consideration we deem it greatly for the Interest of the Honble Company to support the Sciddees and as we have now an opportunity of doing it without disgusting the Morattas, as they have not informed us of any open Rupture and as the Honble Company themselves have upon all occasions Approved of our Assisting them /the Sciddee/ It is unanimously resolved to comply with their request in as frugal a manner as possible, transmitting the draught on Sciddee Mossoot at Surat, to the Provl Chief and Factors there for recovering their amount.

Public Department Diary, 25, pp. 289-90.

No. 208

SURAT LETTER, DATED 4th OCTOBER, 1752.

Solicitations to the Sciddee respecting his Debts to the Company.

The Chief acquaints the Gentlemen that the Bill on Sciddee Mossoot for the Articles supplied the Sciddees at Gingerah, was tendered to him yesterday agreeable to the Ho the President and Council's Directions In answer to which he had sent word he was not in a capacity immediately to pay the amount but would punctually discharge it in ten days. The Chief adds, that in a visit he made the Sciddee a few days past, he had took the opportunity to represent to him how slowly his Debt on account the Company's War Charges was paid in, on which the Sciddee had promised that he would summons the Merchants to consult some means to hasten the payment, that he /the Chief/ is informed they accordingly Yesterday met, but knows not yet the result thereof.

Surat Factory Diary, 10, p. 36.

No. 209

SURAT LETTER, 16th OCTOBER, 1752.

Solicitations to the Sciddee respecting the Debts to the Company.

On which the Chief acquaints the Gentlemen that Sciddee Mossoot has not yet discharged the Bill drawn on him by the Sciddee at Gingerah for twenty five thousand Rupees. /25000-,,-,,/, tho' as appears by our Consultation of the 4th he had promised to pay the amount punctually in ten days from that time, which accordingly since has been repeatedly demanded, but to his /the Chief's/ remonstrances concerning this breach of promise and daily solicitations for a quicker payment in part of the

two lacks; the Sciddee still urges in excuse to the first Article his incapacity and respecting our War Charges, he answers, That the whole Customs as soon as collected are paid us Tho' being sensible it's but a trifle, as the Imports of money this Year from the Red Sea have been very inconsiderable he has of late frequently summon'd the Merchants and strenously pressed them to consult on some means for our satisfaction, urging to them the time that is elapsed, & the smallness of the sum we have received, but has not yet been able to bring them to any resolution relating thereto, however gives us strong assurances of the Bill being shortly discharged, and as the Season is now opened, of our receiving more considerable sums than what has hitherto been paid us, account our War Charges.

Surat Factory Diary, 10, pp. 43-4.

No. 210

SURAT LETTER, DATED 4th NOVEMBER, 1752.

The Chief acquaints the Gentlemen, That the Sciddee has lately been very urgent with him & agree that the Merchants. Under our protection (*torn*) contribute a part for discharging what is indebted to us and the Morattas pretending that the rest of the Europeans will submit to the like contribution from their Merchts; which the Chief observes he is well informed they have refused and adds he has answered to the Sciddees repeated messages on that subject, he is surprized he should expect a compliance with or deny a thing so contrary to our Phirmaunds and Treaty of Peace with him, but that it seems to have little effect, for the Sciddee persists in a (*torn*) to insist thereon.— the Board approve........... Chief .... and agree to advise the President & Council of the foregoing.—

Surat Factory Diary, 11, p. 51.

No. 211

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 7th NOVEMBER, 1752.

Sciddee Mossoot at Surat and Meah Atchund the late Govr both requesting that the latter have liberty to Resident at Bombay and a Passage Granted him on one of the Cruizers and as we do not apprehend any bad Consequences can ensue from Gratifying them in their request and a Denial be Inhuman. It is resolved to send Proper orders to the Provl Chief & Factors.

Public Department Diary, 25, pp. 341-2.

No. 212

SURAT LETTER, DATED 25th NOVEMBER, 1752.

The Chief observes that since receipt of the above Commands of the 15th he has took occasions of sending and representing to the Sciddee that taxing the Merchts. under our protection on any accot. whatever is contrary to our Phirmaund Priviledges and that we cannot submit to such an encroachment thereon as their being obliged to contribute any part for discharging what is indebted to us and the Morattas; That being informed the Sciddee has summon'd the Merchants to meet shortly in respect to those Debts our Marfutteah was this morning again sent to whom to repeat to him the above representations who attending without with the Sciddees answer, he is called in, when he acquainted us, the Sciddee sends word without directly saying he will, or will not assess our Merchants, that he knows not how the money can be collected if the Merchants under the Europeans protection are exempted on this occasion, as they are the most substantial Inhabitants, which the Chief observes is what he has repeatedly answered him.— as from thence there appears no reason to conclude he is absolutely bent on taxing them, we shall continue proper representations to dissuade him from any such intent.—

Adjourned **CHA Crommelin.**

Surat Factory Diary, 11, pp. 73-4.

No. 213

SURAT LETTER, DATED 29th NOVEMBER, 1752.

The Person we sent with our Message to the Durbarr being returned acquaints us the Sciddee absolutely refuses to permit of Jaggernauts' leaving the Assembly.— Considering that our submitting to a conclusion of this nature with one of our Servts. must greatly prejudice us, it is consulted and being unanimously agreed on, Messrs Wrench & Court are sent with orders to demand of the Sciddee the immediate release of our Marfutteah.— In about an hour they returned with him who they met with the rest of the Merchants coming from the Durbarr; inquiring the proceedings there, he acquaints us, that it was agreed an Assessment of one hundred thousand Rupees, should be levied on the substantial Inhabitants, that the Govt. pointed out him & three others insisting on their standing securities for payment of that part of the Sum to be collected from the Banians, they refusing had thus long been detained, as a means to bring them to a compliance, but persisting in their denial of submitting to this unreasonable demand, and it's imagined the Govt. having intimation that Messrs. Wrench & Court were coming to the Durbarr, which

seemed to have some weight with them, the Merchants were dismissed on one of the Govts own Dependents pretending to become security for the Banians— he observes that no mention was made either of including or exempting on this occasion the Merchants under the Europeans protection.—

Surat Factory Diary, 11, pp. 76-7.

No. 214

SURAT LETTER, DATED 29th NOVEMBER, 1752.

Govt's Proceedings for the discharge of the Debts due to us & the Morattas.

The Chief acquaints the Gentlemen that the Merchants who assembled on Monday last in respect to the money indebted us and the Morattas are yet detained by the Government in the Durbar, That our Marfutleah, who as head of the Cast sits at the meeting sends his word an assessment is agreed on, but that the Sciddee insists on tour of the Principal Banians being Security for payment of the Sum levied on that, and as one of the Tour has pitched upon him /our Marfutleah/, whose compliance therewith the Chief observes may involve us in trouble on this occasion, he therefore called this meeting to agree on the means to get him released, in order to evade the Govt's design for his engaging as such on which it is proposed and concurred to, that we send word to the Sciddee; we have a present occasion for Jaggernaut in the Factory, therefore desire he will immediately to come away.

Surat Factory Diary, 10, pp. 75-6.

No. 215

SURAT LETTER, DATED 20th NOVEMBER, 1752.

The Sciddee drops his design of violating our privileges.

The Person who sent with our Message to the Durbar being returned acquaints us the Sciddee absolutely refuses to permit of Jaggernaut's leaving the Assembly Considering that our submitting to a compulsion of this nature with one of our Servants must greatly prejudice us, it is consulted and being unanimously agreed on Messrs Wrench & Court are sent with Orders to demand of the Sciddee in a suitable manner the immediate release of our Marfutleah. In about an hour they returned with him, who they met with the rest of the Merchants coming from the Durbar; inquiring the proceedings there, he acquaints us that it was agreed an Assessment of one hundred thousand Rupees should be levied on the substantial Inhabitants that the Govt. pointed out him and three

others, insisting on their standing Securities for payment of that part of the Sum to be collected from the Banians, they refusing had thus long been detained as a means to bring them to a compliance but persisting in their denial or submitting to this unreasonable demand and it's imagined the Govt having intimation that Messrs Wrench and Court were coming to the Durbar, which seemed to have some weight with them the Merchants were dismissed on one of the Govts own Dependants pretending to become security for the Banians— he observes that no mention was made either of including or exempting on this occasion the Europeans protection.

Surat Factory Diary, 10, pp. 76-7.

No. 216

SURAT LETTER, DATED 7th FEBRUARY, 1753.

Request from the Sciddee respect of Meah Atchund.

The Chief acquaints the Gentlemen, That the Sciddee in his visit the 31st ultimo, desired Meah Atchund might be permitted to proceed down to Bombay on the Guardian, and that he answered him, as the Ho. the Presidt and Council have given leave for Atchund to go and reside at the Presidency Capt Tarnes will receive him and accomodate him in a suitable manner, which the Board Approve.

Surat Factory Diary, 10, p. 145.

No. 217

SURAT LETTER, DATED 9th FEBRUARY, 1753.

The Sciddee takes possession of the Castle pretending to be authorised from Court.

The Sciddee having /at least he pretends to have/ rec'd Advices from Delhi, that a Commission will shortly be sent down to appoint him Governor of the Castle, he went this morning in a formal manner to take possession of it, which indeed has all along been, and continues to be, in the charge of one of his Dependents; for he himself does not choose as yet to go and reside in it. On this occasion he was saluted by the Castle, and desiring us likewise to compliment in it, we accordingly saluted him with seven guns from our Bunder.

Surat Factory Diary, 10, p. 157.

No. 218

SURAT LETTER, DATED 21st MAY, 1753.

Sciddee's pretence of having received a Commission.

The Sciddee pretends likewise to have received a Commission from the King appointing him Govr of the Castle, but this is generally believed to be forged, and that his giving out to have received it, just at this juncture is a deceitful pretext to give it some appearance of being authoritatick. We sent and complimented them on this occasion in the usual manner which has been done also by the other Europeans and all the principal Merchs in the place.

Surat Factory Diary, 10, p. 234.

No. 219

SURAT LETTER, DATED 23rd MAY, 1753.

The Sciddee made us a visit— Our Solicitations on this occasion to him for payment of the Debt to the Ho. Company Account the War Charges and his answer thereto, will be represented to the President and Council in our next Advices.

Surat Factory Diary, 10, p. 235.

No. 220

SURAT LETTER, DATED 25th JULY, 1753.

We visited the Sciddee— To our repeated remonstrances at this time for him to pay off the amount of the War Charges and Gingerah Draught he answered he would discharge the former as soon as possible and the latter when the ships arrived from the Red Sea.

Surat Factory Diary, 10, p. 272.

No. 221

SURAT LETTER, DATED 28th JULY, 1753.

In a visit the Sciddee made us to-day, he expressed a great jealousy at the warlike preparations, Suffdir Khan has lately made and continues to make; and a Doubt that Suffdir Khan by daily introducing numbers of Morattas, has some intentions with the Morattas and to his /the Sciddees/ prejudice; and intimating that he was desirous of our interfering our Services for a good understanding between him and Suffdir Khan; and as there is great reason to expect ill consequences from their present

disputes, unless some mediating measures are speedily used. We thought proper to offer our kind Offices to bring about a reconciliation, on this he proposed we should discourse Phans Khan for that purpose, who is an acting Man, and greatly in the confidence of Suffdir Khan which we promised him to do.

Surat Factory Diary, 10, p. 274.

No. 222

SURAT............................AUGUST, 1753.

MONDAY 27th.

LRE. TO BOMBAY.

It is with great satisfaction we acquaint your Honr &cta that the Scidee and Suffdir Khan shewing an inclination to refer the decision of their differences to us and the Merchants we accordingly interfered with our good Offices, and by our mediation have to all outward appearance reconciled them for the present, and the City is now freed of their apprehension of Commotions.—

Surat Factory Diary, 12, p. 15.

No. 223

SURAT............................AUGUST, 1753.

LRE. FROM BOMBAY

SATURDAY 25th.

Your Letter of the 30th Ultimo is come to hand, by which we are sorry to observe that the Inhabitants of Surat are under great apprehensions from the Jealousy which subsists between the Sciddee and Suffdir Khan. We hope it will not be followed with an open Rupture, but should that be the case, you are on no account to engage with either Party, but strictly conform yourselves to the 68th Paragraph of the Ho Company's Commands of the March 1753 herein enclosed.

Surat Factory Diary, 12, p. 10.

No. 224

SURAT............................OCTOBER, 1753.

SATURDAY 6th.

GOVTS. DISPUTES.

To this Day we have heard nothing from Sciddee Sabaun but the Sciddee himself sent for Jaggernaut in the Evening, and after a long Discourse on his own Situation, He at last consented to wait till the King's

Orders should arrive, but that Suffdir Khan must sign a Writing, and he wou'd do the same binding themselves to obey the King's Orders, which writing should be sealed by all the Europeans and principal Men of the City, and that their own Officers should be bound to see the same executed, which he directed Jaggernaut to inform us of.

Surat Factory Diary, 12, pp. 39-40.

No. 225

SURAT............................AUGUST, 1753.

THURSDAY 9th.

GOVT'S DISPUTES.

In the Afternoon sent the Sciddee Word that Farroos Khan had been with us, and We should be glad to talk with him on the Subject of what had passed between us, at any time or Place that would be agreeable to him, to which he answered He would come to the Factory tomorrow morning.

This morning Sciddee Hoffis Mossoot Khan came to the Factory, when we acquainted him with the four Articles which the Nabob had proposed for making a lasting Peace between them, and observed to him that Farroos Khan had in a manner given up the Second and last, but insisted on the other two; To which he replied they were of such a nature that they rather tended to widen the breach than otherwise, however he could answer them separately; That he agreed to the 1st, but that what the former Rules were must be settled, From the 2nd he said he could not help thinking that the Nabob had sent for some Orders from Court prejudicial to his Interest, and that it was time enough to think of that Article when any Orders arrived from Court; The 3rd Article he would never agree to, for that the Nabob had allowed it him by a Writing under his Son's hand, and he would not beg his Tanka every month of the Nabob, but insisted on collecting as he did now out of the Revenues of the Town; As the 4th Article was dropt by Farros Khan himself he said there was no occasion for any answer to it; He was then told that Farros Khan had swore the Nabob had never entered into any Engagements with the Morattas for delivering up the Town to them, and we desired to know what Satisfaction he required in this Point; He first remarked that no regard was to be had to Farro's Khans Oaths, And said he had certain Intelligence of the Nabob's Correspondence with the Morattas, which was to deliver up the Town to them, and nothing but the Nabob's turning Faroos Khan out of his Service wou'd convince him of the contrary, To this the Chief observed that as they were about a reconciliation, he thought it a very improper time to push for Farroos Khan's Dismission, for that he (the Scidee) must

be sensible how strongly the Nabob was attached to him, and therefore desired he would drop it, which he agreed to, but said he should never be easy so long as Farroos Khan continued with the Nabob; He expressed great Indignation at the Nabob for making him this Return for the many Favours he had conferred upon him, and observed in particular that he brought him from Scindy and placed him in the Durbar contrary to the advise of his best Friends; He likewise acknowledged his error in giving Farroos Khan those Places of Trust and Power, which he (Farroos Khan) now enjoys, and wished he had observed the Advice given him by the Gentlemen of the Committee and the present Chief never to put any Confidence in that Man—He said it was proper the Town Merchants should be acquainted with these Proposals, and if We approved it He would order them to come to the Factory, which being agreed to, He took his leave.—

Surat Factory Diary, 12, pp. 3-5.

No. 226

SURAT..............................AUGUST, 1753.

THURSDAY 9th.

GOVT'S DISPUTES.

At our Invitation (agreeable to our promise to the Sciddee the 28th Ultimo) Pharis Khan this Day made us a visit.—The Chief took occasion to introduce the subject of the Govts, Disputes, and told him, He was sorry to find the Nabob and Sciddee were making preparations for involving the Town in Troubles, which could not but end in the ruin of them both; and therefore desired to know what reason the Nabob had to be dissatisfied with his present Scituation; The Chief further observed to him that the Sciddee was very jealous of the Nabob's having joined the Morattas and that it had been for some time the Common Report that he had agreed to deliver up the Town to them therefore it was necessary to give the Scidee some Satisfaction in this Point—He replied that Differences had often arose between the Nabob and Sciddee, which he himself had accommodated, but in order to make such an Agreement now as should never be broke, the Nabob proposed the following Articles.

First....................................

Secondly....................................

Thirdly, That the Scidee should no longer collect the third part of the Revenues of the Town under pretence of his Tanka, for the Nabob wou'd pay him two Lack Yearly in monthly Payments on his getting an Order from Court as was formerly practiced, and would give him a Shroff for Security.

Fourthly....................................

......................He observed that the Sciddee is too much inclined to give ear to every idle Story that is brought him, and He believes nothing would convince him of the Nabob's having no Engagement with the Morattas but his breaking with them, and even this the Nabob is ready to do, provided the Town will raise a Fund for carrying on the War, he being too poor to pay even his own People.—After a long Discourse on the Articles He agreed that settling that respecting the King's Orders might be waved untill such time as any are received......... That the Sciddee should not have anything to do with the Govt of the Town, for his having usurped that Power and fleecing the Merchants and keeping all the money to himself had greatly disgusted the Nabob, That the Sciddee some time ago told the Nabob there was no occasion to send any Money to Court, for that what they had got was won by the Sword and not any Favour of the King's: The Chief observed to him that the Nabob himself had allowed the Scidee to collect a third part of the Revenues as could be proved by a Writing of Mahmed Bakhar Khan's when the Agreement was made for bringing him from Scindy; This he acknowledged but said it was a Favour of the Nabob's and he might recall it when he pleased. Farros Khan said he left these Articles to our Consideration, or if we pleased we might consult the Merchants on them, and then took his leave.

Surat Factory Diary, 12, pp. 1-3.

No. 227

SURAT...........................OCTOBER, 1753.

MONDAY 15th.

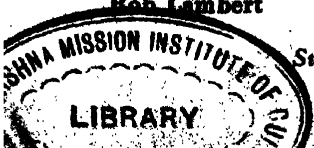
GOVT'S DISPUTES.

The Chief acquaints the Gentlemen that Suffdir Caun and the Scidee have bound themselves by a Treaty that no Hostilities shall be committed on either side untill three months hereafter, and that if in the Interim any Orders are received from the King regarding their present Disputes that the same shall be strictly obey'd, which Treaty is signed by the Officers of both Parties who are bound to see the same duly executed, and that all the acting Men seeming very desirous that he (the Chief) and the head Scied of the Place should sign (barely as Witness) to the Treaty, he asks the Gentlemen's Sentiments in respect thereto— it being considered that the Chief's compliance with their request can be attended with no ill consequences, the Board assents to it.

Adjourned—

Rob Lambert **Cha Crommelin.**

&c.



Surat Factory Diary, 12, p. 42.

No. 228

SURAT ....OCTOBER, 1753.

MONDAY 15th.

LRE. TO BOMBAY.

Suffdir Caun and the Scidee have now entered into a Treaty, that no Hostilities shall be commenced on either side until the end of three month's hereafter, in which Interim if any Orders are received from the King respecting their present Disputes, that they shall be strictly obey'd: This Treaty is signed by Officers of both the Parties, who are bound to see the same duly executed; and as they all seemed very desirous that the Chief and the head Scied of the Place should sign (barely as Witness) thereto, which we considering could be attended with no ill consequences, the Chief has complied therewith.

Surat Factory Diary, 12, p. 46.

No. 229

SURAT .... APRIL, 1754.

MONDAY 22nd.

Sometimes ago the Slaves joining in a Confederacy obliged the Nabob to put away his Second, Farroos Khan, whose Posts they divided amongst themselves, and have since behaved to us in a very insolent manner, by taking up several People under our Protection; and not being able to get any redress either from the Scidee or Nabob we beg leave to represent the same to your Honr &cta with this observation, that the Nabob has lost all his Power, and cannot give us satisfaction, and the Scidee who has these Slaves at his Command seems to give them Encouragement, so that we have reason to apprehend these Insults may be carried still further, and the old Scidee of late having been very infirm, should he not recover, his Death we judge will occasion great Revolutions in this Govt. We therefore beg leave to submit to your Honr &cta's consideration what measures are proper to secure the Honble Company's Property and Priviledges against any ill consequences that are likely to ensue from the present situation of Affairs.

Surat Factory Diary, 12, p. 110.

No. 230

SURAT .... JUNE, 1754.

WEDNESDAY 19th.

LRE. TO BOMBAY.

.......................On the 17th Instant Pieran Neuran was seized by Alley Nouas Caun's People.................... they have obliged him to sign a

Bond for, to a large amount; the same Day our Marfutteah (on the first report of the Affair) Was sent to Suffdir Caun and also to the Scidee but would not gain admittance to either of them; yesterday we sent requesting that Messrs Holford and Court might be permitted to wait on them, to which, evasive and frivolous answers were returned from both, by which it appeared evident they shunn'd coming to an explanation, therefore this morning it was thought advisable for Messrs Holford and Court to go the Durbar and themselves request an audience from the Nabob /Suffdir Caun/ accordingly they proceeded and were decently received; After some General Discourse relating to the .... above, the Nabob entered minutely into the present situation of Affairs in this City, that since the turning out of Farris Khan he had been deprived of all his authority, freely declaring his own inability, to redress us, and tho' Alley Nouas Khan had the Title of his Second, yet he was a Creature of the Sceedee's, to whose orders only he paid Obedience, and plainly told us that the proceeding against us was done wholly by the Scidee at the instigation of Munchur the present Dutch Broker, who was further attempting to breed disturbance in the City, and had taken this method to commence Disputes, firmly assur of the truth of this, and added we should shortly see some other Merchants under our Protection heated in the same manner, which was not in his Power to prevent.— From the Durbar Messrs Holford and Court waited on the Scidee at his House but could not gain admittance so much as to see him which Proceeding convinces us we cannot expect any redress from him.

From the foregoing your Honr &cta may perceive & it is our real opinion, that the Scidee intends us further Insults, and that our Suspicions mentioned in our Address of the 23rd April were not ill grounded. In the present Circumstances of Affairs we shall act with the greatest circumspection and caution recommending to the Merchants under our protection to secure their Valueable Effects in the Factory, 'till we hear from your Honr &cta: And as no redress is to be expected from the present situation of this Govt, we have been thus particular in relating the real Facts as they occured that your Honr &cta— from this may take such measures as shall appear necessary for support of our Phirmaund Priviledges as also the Credit of the Honble Compy at this place.

Surat Factory Diary, 12, pp. 135-6.

No. 231

SURAT .... SEPTEMBER, 1754.

SATURDAY 4th.

LRE. TO BOMBAY.

In answering to that part of your Honr &cta's Commands relating to Pieran Neuran, We must repeat that he was taken into the Ho Company's

Protection at the Scidee's request, who himself introduced him to the Chief and earnestly recommended him to our Care, and afterwards for his greater security the Scidee gave him that Writing expressg that no molestation should be given him; and as the Scidee had then, as now, all the Power entirely in his own hands, and had in such manner recommended Pieran to us, We judged this fully sufficient for our taking him into our protection; and here we beg leave to observe that the Nabob has told us Pieran was no servant of his, and indeed has all along intimated privately that he was taken up without his Advice or Consent, nor do we learn by the best Information we can get that Pieran had ever any further concern or Transactions with the Govt than paying the Muccaut on his Trade, nor ever gave reason to the Dyers for complaint against him; and as to what the Govt say of his embeezling the Customs, that is a Rea they always urge on these occasions.— Pieran has taken the head Scied's Protection untill he knows whether or not he is to be continued in the Ho Company's.

Surat Factory Diary, 12, pp. 11-2.

No. 232

SURAT .... SEPTEMBER, 1754.

THURSDAY 12th.

LRE. FROM BOMBAY.

SIRS,

We have hitherto deferred replying to your several Letters of the 7th and 17th July and 15th August, in expectation of the President's receiving Answers to Letters he wrote to Suffdir Khan and Scidee Mossoot in regard to Pieran Neuran.

Answers were accordingly received Yesterday and they both strenously insist that Pieran Neuran is always employed by the Govt. and that they were obliged to take him up at the repeated Complaints of the whole body of Dyers for his Oppression towards them whilst in Power, and likewise on accot of his Embeezling the King's Customs.— The Scidee further observed that the Agreement entered into with Messrs Savage and Sulivan in regard to People then under the Hon Company's Protection had been no ways infringed and they both hoped as this Pieran was a Subject of the Mogul and employed indifferently not only by the English but by the Dutch and others, that what they had done might not occasion any Breach of Friendship.

We at present must evade coming to any Resolution hereon, untill you acquaint us, whether at the Time Pieran Neuran was admitted under the Ho Company's Protection, you first duly informed the Govt of your Intention to know, whether they had any Demands upon him or objection there-

to. We are greatly apprehensive that this necessary Precaution (tho' always customary) was not observed, that his being admitted was at the earnest Desire of the Scidee himself as Paper and Translate which you enclosed to us, yet we must observe to you, that this Paper is a manifest Contradiction to your Advices, for it is therein expressly said "The Company's Business being given to Pieran Neuran Indigo head Man the Scidee is desired to put his Seal to this Paper" We shall expect your answer on this Subject as soon as possible, that we may take such measures as may then appear suitable.

Surat Factory Diary, 12, pp. 9-10.

No. 233

SURAT .... SEPTEMBER, 1754.

SUNDAY 15th.

We in reality cannot find out any other reason than the above disputed Accots for seizing this Money, and in our Message to the Scidee we assured him that when the money was received, those Accots immediately should be adjusted 'tis always usual in case of any Disputed Accots between Merchants under any European protection to make proper application to the Chief and they to adjust the same; but in this case no application was made to the Chief nor did we know before this Affair happen'd that Baboorjee was in debt to Munchur, and even now Baboorjee declares to us that Munchur is in Debt to him.

Surat Factory Diary, 12, p. 14.

No. 234

SURAT .... OCTOBER, 1754.

SATURDAY 12th.

LRE. FROM BOMBAY.

SIRS,

We wrote you last under the 23rd Ultimo, and have received your Letters of the 26th and 28th, wherein we observe the Scidee had insisted on Baboorjee's Accots being adjusted at his House, but as the giving up of that point would be highly injurious to the Ho Company's Interest & directly contrary to our Phirmaund Priviledges, we much approve of your not consenting thereto.

Surat Factory Diary, 12, p. 24.

No. 235

SURAT .... NOVR., 1754.

TUESDAY 12th.

We had a Message from the Scidee requiring that the Town Marfutteahs (who are still in the Factory on accot the Exceedings in the Sandwich's Freight) might be set at liberty, as we have no authority to detain the King's Subjects and their Confinement put a stop to the Business of the whole Town; To this we answered, that these People had defrauded the Ho Company to a large amount, and as we have the King's Phirmaund for proceeding in this manner for the recovery of our Debts, we would not release them untill they had accomodated this Affair, which we expected would be done this Evening, when they would be permitted to leave the Factory; On this the Scidee went to the Durbar and soon after the Nabob sent us word that unless we immediately set these People at liberty, he would not continue in Friendship with us— As this privilege of confining our Debtors is one of the Fundamental Supports of our Trade, for without this we can have no Security in our Dealings, and imagining the Govt would not presume on so frivolous a Pretence as this, to offer at so flagrant a violation of our Phirmaund Rights as they threatened; We therefore sent to him the same Reply we gave the Scidee; but we find a Guard of two hundred Men is already set at the Water Gate, and a Stop put to our Business, and not any person belonging to us permitted to pass in or out; however the Marfutteahs Accots being now settled, and they havg given us a Writing to pay in a month's time their Share of what we have adjusted, which they have declared in the presence of two of the Scidee's Officers they allow to be just, and are satisfied, we have sent to advise the Scidee thereof; and that we are ready to release them, if the Guard at the Water Gate is removed.

Surat Factory Diary, 12, pp. 37-8.

No. 236

SURAT .... NOVEMBER, 1754.

WEDNESDAY 13th.

Early this morning Scidee Sabaun (an Officer of Scidee Mossoot's) came to us, and promised that if possible our Desire for the removal of the Guards should be complied with, we therefore presented each of the Marfutteahs with a Shawl agreeable to the Country Custom, and sent them with the Officer to the Scidee, but this did not satisfie the Govt, for they then demanded of us to give up the Marfutteahs Note, before they would remove the Guards, as satisfaction for the Affrontin presuming

to take any Obligation from their Subjects. On this we sent repeatedly to desire that Mr. Holford might wait on the Scidee, but this he absolutely refused, and we found our Business entirely stopt, no Prospect of removing the Guards, but by complying with ...... the Govts Demands, and considering if these Impediments remain, the Investmt cannot be shipped off, which will retard the Dispatch of the Ships to Europe, we agreed to give up the Note to the Scidee and accordingly delivered it to the Scidee Sabaun: Just at this Juncture all the Streets about the Factory were filled with the Govts. Guards, and no person whatever suffered to go into or go from the Factory, and at the same time one of the Scidee's Officers with Party of Men were lodged in the Serray close to us, in this Scituation they continued from two till six o'Clock in the Evening, when the Scidee being in possession of the Marfuteahs Note, the Guards were taken away.

Surat Factory Diary, 12, p. 38.

No. 237

SURAT .... NOVR., 1754.

THURSDAY 14th.

In our Address of the 5th Instant we acquainted your Honr. &ca with our detaining the Two Marfutteahs in order to adjust the Deficiences of the Sandwich's Freight, wch was near finished by the 12th Instant, when the Scidee sent Scidee Sabaun to the Chief requiring those People might set at liberty under pretence that we had no authority to detain the King's Subjects and it was putting a Stop to the business of the whole Town, To which the Chief answered, that those People had defrauded the Ho Company and others to a large amount, That we have the King's Phirmaund to recover our Debts by detaining any Debtors in the Factory, That the dispute would be finished the same Evening, when we should release the People, and till then we cou'd not do it; On this the Scidee went to the Durbar, and soon after a message came from the Nabob in a more imperious manner to which the same answer was returned and about Five o'clock in the Evening of the 12th two hundred Men were sent to the Water Gate, who stopt everybody belonging to us from passing in or out, within two hours after, the Marfutteahs Accots were settled and they passed a Writing to pay in a month's time their Share of what had been settled, of which we advised the Scidee, and that we were ready to release them in case that the Guards at the Sea Gate were removed, but nothing more was done that night. Early in the morning yesterday Scidee Sabaun came again and promised if possible our request should be granted, on which we gave the Marfutteahs a Shaul each agreeable to the Country Custom, and sent them with him to the Scidee repeating

our Desire for the removal of the Guard, but this did not satisfie them, for they then demanded of us to give up the Marfutteahs Note, pretending that it was a great presumption in us to take any Obligation from their Subjects, and that we must resign it to the Scidee as a satisfaction for the Affront, before the Seepoys would be removed; We then sent three Messages to desire Mr. Holford might wait on the Scidee who absolutely refused to see him, Finding our Business was entirely stopt and no means but this offering to remove the Guard, we agreed to give up the Note to the Scidee and actually delivered it to Scidee Sabaun, but just then all the streets leading to the Factory were filled with the Govts. Seepoys, and no Person whatever suffered to come near or go from the Factory, at the same time one of the Scidee's Officers with a Party of Men were lodged in the Serray close to us; Affairs continued in this Scituation from two 'till six o'Clock in the Evening, when the Scidee being in possession of Marfutteahs Note, the Guard were removed and our Business has since gone as usual— We hope your Honr &cta will approve of our getting over this Affair in the manner we have done, as we had no other means of freeing ourselves from the stoppage which if continued would have prevented our sending down the Investment, and thereby increased the Prince Edward's Demorage which indeed was the principal Consideration that induced us to submit so easily to the violence that was offered us.

Surat Factory Diary, 12, pp. 39-41.

No. 238

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 27th JANUARY, 1756.

Likewise the Letter from the Chief & Factors at Surat Extracted under the 21st inst. & the President acquainting the Board, He has this day received Advice of Sciddee Mossoot Caun's Death, Resolved that we dispatch the Edgecoote immediately thither and that a strong Detachment proceed on her, in case of disturbances on that occasion.

Public Department Diary, 29A, p. 57.

No. 239

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 23rd MARCH, 1756.

Sciddee Yaucood Caun's Letter.

Translate of a Letter from Sciddee Yaucood Caun recd: the 20th instant without date.

AFTER COMPLIMENTS.

I have received your letter in answer to what I wrote you and observe the contents. I retain a due sense of the Friendship shown us by you and

your predecessors, and had I known there was no Friendship between you and the Dutch or received your Letter before their Ships arrived, and when their broker, and Trimbucksett of Poonah was here, to talk about the Customs, and request a settlement, I would have told them plainly to go and follow their business elsewhere as I valued your Friendship above everything but notwithstanding your Letter has come too late. You may be assured they shall not have any Place for a Warehouse here. They promise us advantages amounting to many thousand Rupees, and a Pishcash of Forty thousand, 40000 .... Rupees per annum and to assist us on all occasions but I shall not regard it, assuring myself that your strict Friendship is far preferable. I acquainted them that it was not in my power to allow of a Place, as Gingerah belongs to the King and we dare not do anything without his Orders; and if they chose to send their ships to trade here they might, at which they have expressed great concern and want to return but as some Balagut Merchants have purchased some of their goods they desire to deliver them, which I don't think proper to hinder and that Your Honour will not deem it unjust, but a place your Honour may rest assured they shall never have, as Gingerah expects God's and the Company's Help to defend her against all enemies Mulnah Omar will tell your Honour what I have further to say.

Public Department Diary, 29A, pp. 154-5.

No. 240

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 19th MARCH, 1757.

LRE. FROM THE CHIEF AT FORT VICTORIA.

He desired our directions in respect to the Sciddee's receiving a Quarter Part of the Customs, Which He had hitherto collected at a Chowkie up the River, That as the Royalty thereof was entirely vested in the Honble Company He presumed neither the Morattas nor Sciddee had any right to Chowkies, or Passage Boats there, but they had two of each. That He intended to stop the Boats, as They furnished his People with a continual Opportunity of deserting. That He was much in want of two Passage Boats. That being just then informed the Topidass of some Bombay Shybars had been stopped up the River, and Pass money demanded of Them, He had sent upon Armed Boat to bring down the Shybars, He requested, We wou'd supply him with 56 Candies of Coir, and send the Artificers, He had formerly applied for.—

Public Department Diary, 30A, pp. 119-20.

No. 241

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 7th AUGUST, 1759.

The State of the Sciddee's Vessells.

Ordered likewise that the Superintendent lay before us, the State and Condition of the Vessels lately taken from the Sciddee at Surat.

Public Department Diary, 33, p. 404.

No. 242

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 14th AUGUST, 1759.

Regarding the Sciddees Fleet.

Agreed that the Superintendent likewise convert such of the Vessels, lately belonging to the Sciddee and now at this Place, as it appears by the state and condition of them entered hereafter are not fit for Sea Service to such purposes as he may think fit.

Public Department Diary, 33, p. 486.

No. 243

SURAT .... 12th NOVEMBER, 1757.

LETTER TO B'BAY.

It has always been an established usuage here, for Boats whether dispatched from the Furza or our Latty, to take Notes of Permission to pass the Castle for which Those under our Protection formerly paid no more than 10 Anas each, but the Sciddee about 5 Years past, insisted on a Rupee & a half for them and that Fee has constantly since been paid. Three days ago these Notes were refused to be delivered us on the usual Terms, whereon the Chief sent an expostulatory Message to the Sciddee requesting that he would inform himself of the Practice of the Hoffis Massoot Caun, to the Continuance whereof we had no Objection but could submit to no fresh imposition, when his answer was, that his Father had only acted conformable to his own pleasure & that he too was resolved to do the same.

Surat Factory Diary, 13, p. 82.

No. 244

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 26th FEBRUARY, 1760.

Sciddee - Remarks on his coming here.

The President acquaints the Board that he thinks the Sciddee of Rajipore, who arrived here in a small Boat on the 24th instant, has been guilty

of a very rash action in exposing his Person to the danger of the Moratta Fleet, which blocks up that Place and tho' the Sciddee says that he meant this as a visit, in order to take leave of the President before his Departure for England, it is very apparent it has proceeded from his present great distress, and as he has ventured hither it is our unanimous opinion that his person should not be risqued again in .... returning as it would be a great Disgrace to our Nation, and such an accident would infallibly throw Rogipore into the Morattas hands, Resolved therefore that he be conducted back with some of the Cruizers, and that to prevent any umbrage being given to the Morattas by that measure, that the President write a proper Letter to Nannah and another to the Commanding Officer of his Forces before Rogipore on the occasion.

The President proceeding to inform us, that the Sciddee in an Interview since his Arrival has represented, that he is in the utmost distress at Rogipore, for some money and ammunition to defend it against the Morattas, and we considering that it would prove highly injurious to our Honble Masters Interest, to suffer them to make themselves, Masters of it, RESOLVED that we in as private a manner as possible supply him with some money and ammunition, for which any Jewels he may have, or what other security it is in his Power to give should be obtained and which we are induced to hope, our Honble Masters will approve, as we concur with them, that the Morattas in case of getting Rogipore, would become the formidable neighbours and it must be observed that this assistance the Sciddee is strictly conformable to the Second Article of the Defencive and Offencive Alliance entered into with them the 6th December 1733 and we are further conformed in our Resolution for assisting the Sciddees, from an apprehension that if the Morattas should get possession of Rogipore, they would likewise be troublesome in their demands about the Tanka at Surat, as that Revenue has belonged to the Sciddees, and because their Desperation in case we did not assist them, might fling them into the arms of the Dutch and at once render all the abortive Pains we have taken to prevent their getting any Footing there.

Public Department Diary, 34, pp. 147-8.

No. 245

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 14th APRIL, 1760.

Scidee requests the release of some prisoners.

The Sciddee pressing us to release some People, turned on the Works in Consultation. 29th November last, his request is ordered to be complied with.

Public Department Diary, 34, p. 286.

No. 246

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 20th MAY, 1760.

Likewise the Letters from Messrs. Wilkinson & Gambier at Onore, and the Resident at Fort Victoria with one from the latter to the President, which he now lays before us concerning the Fort there having been alarmed by some Morattas, on account a Person residing at that Settlement, named Sciddee Abdullah as entered hereafter, and as we think him a very improper person to be continued under the Honble Company's protection, especially as Mr. Wrench informs us he was obliged to call him several times before him for the like misbehaviour, Agreed that we direct the Resident to order him to depart from the limits offering him a passage by the return of an express boat we shall send him and if he does not comply in a reasonable time that the Resident confine him to the upper Fort, as we cannot permit of the Peace of the Settlement being continually disturbed on his account.

Public Department Diary, 34, pp. 391-2.

No. 247

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 30th SEPTEMBER, 1760.

President lays before the Board undergd requests of the Sciddee of Gingerah.

Translate of a Letter (The Honble Charles Crommelin Esqr President) has received from the Sciddee of Gingerah strenously requesting that we will send a Party of Men with our Colours, to be hoisted at Consaw Fort, and likewise comply with a List of Sundries therein inserted, as entered hereafter but as our doing the former would probably bring on a Rupture with the Morattas, We deem it very improper at this juncture and are certain from what passed last season when he was here that he cannot be in want of Batty. It is AGREED therefore to supply him only with the Gunpowder and small Balls in a private manner which we are sensible must be necessary before the Morattas invest the Place closely, and the President is desired to reply to his Letter but to tell him possitively that We cannot consent to his coming here, As it will give umbrage to the Morattas, and be of prejudice to his own affair at Gingerah.

Public Department Diary, 35, p. 717.

No. 248

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 24th JANUARY, 1761.

Read and Approved our last Consultation of the 20th Instant.

The President lays before us translate of a Letter addressed to him from the Sciddee representing as entered hereafter, that the Portuguese

are sending further succours to the Morattas at Gingerah offering to deliver that Fort and Consaw to our Honble Masters, and declaring if we do not accept it, he will invite the Dutch, or some other Europeans to support him and we considering that the Portuguese may probably seize upon the place for themselves and that the President last year told Govin Sewram Punt; He would not allow it to fall into improper hands, RESOLVED that Mr. Byfeld, Major Gouin and Mr. Hornby be appointed a Committee to proceed with our Honble Masters Ship Neptune /notwithstanding our resolution of the 10th instant for sending her to Surat as soon as ready/ Guardian, Fox Ketch, Tyren Snow, Dolphin, Shark, Bonneta and other Gallivats, having proper attachments of military, to confer with Ramajee Punt, assuring him that our design in sending them, is only to interpose as Mediators, between the Sciddee and Nannah, to accomodate their differences, in an amicable manner, but if not withstanding the Committee's endeavour for that end, Ramajee will not withdraw his Forces, they are to acquaint him We are determined to hoist our Colours both at Gingerah and Consaw till their differences can be properly adjusted conformable to which the Secretary is ordered to prepare Instructions for the Committee.

Public Department Diary, 36, p. 203.

No. 249

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 24th JANUARY, 1761.

Translate of a Letter from Sciddee Ibrahim Caun, received 24th February, 1761.

AFTER COMPLIMENTS.

You know very well that these three years we are attacked and seized by the Morattas and that forced me to come last year and see you, & so it has now, and tho' the old Friendship between us and the Company has always been fast, and I myself come and sit in Bombay, desiring your help, yet I see my Friends will not help me, and now my Subedar Sciddee Yaucood Caun, has wrote me from Gingerah, that the Portuguese not only help the Morattas, ever since last year, but that now, they are coming from Goa frigats, Galleys and Gallivats for their assistance, but that tho' I myself is gone to Bombay and sit here, yet Your Honour is not yet pleased to help us, That my House and Bombay is not separate but one, That I must now deliver to Your Honour both Gingerah and Consaw and obtain your help and should Your Honour not like this, that then my can't help making the Dutch or any other European our Patron and receive their Colours; this is the opinion of all my people because they

say they will by no means submit to the Peswas /or Nannah's/ pleasure, This is what they write me, and which I inform you by this Letter, and say that should you not be induced to help us, in that case, we shall be obliged to make the Dutch, or any other European Nation our Patron. This is what we have come to a Resolution of, but Sir, as you are our old and fast friends I have wrote this letter of last and advice, and beg you will take into consideration the same and help us, but otherwise I hope, you will not blame us.

Public Department Diary, 36, p. 207.

No. 250

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 27th FEBRUARY, 1761.

Gingerah Committee Instruction read and approved.

Read our foul instructions to the Committee proceeding to Gingerah, Sailing Orders to the Commander of the Neptune Copy of a Letter from the President for Ramajee Punt, which are APPROVED and the latter ordered to follow this Consultation.

Public Department Diary, 36, p. 220.

No. 251

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 1st MARCH, 1761.

Instructions to the Gingerah Committee.

Closed and delivered our Instructions to the Committee proceeding Gingerah, and our Sailing Orders for the Commander of the Neptune, The former were conformable to our Resolution of the 24th ulto; remarking that we did not know the Portugueze were at War with the Sciddees as Principals, and therefore if they came there, during their stay, or were there on their arrival, they must acquaint them, the place was assigned over to us, and send them Copy of the Assignment that they might not interfere. That in case of their finding it expedient they were to hoist our Colours at Gingerah and if it induced Ramajee to raise the Siege they must leave such a Detachment of military, as the Major might think proper and get the Principal Sciddees to join with the Sciddee in signing an Obligation, not to permit any other Europeans to settle there, and that as we could ill spare the Vessels on this service, we relied on the bringing it speedily to a Conclusion.

Public Department Diary, 36, p. 248.

No. 252

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 2nd MARCH, 1761.

Gingerah Committee embark on the NEPTUNE.

This morning the Committee appointed to proceed to Gingerah, embarked on the Neptune, when they were saluted from the Fort and Shipping in the Road— The sciddee also embarked on the Guardian— Sailed the Neptune, Guardian, Fox Ketch, Tyren Snow, Shark, Dolphin, Boneta, and Other Gallivats for Gingerah.

Public Department Diary, 36, p. 249.

No. 253

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 3rd MARCH, 1761.

Bombay Grab ordered to Gingerah.

The Superintendent representing that the Bombay Grab will be unloaded, and ready to sail to-morrow Evening AGREED that we dispatch her to the Committee at Gingerah to relieve our Honble Masters Ship Neptune, or not as they may think proper.

Mr. England then withdrew.

Public Department Diary, 36, p. 250.

No. 254

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 7th MARCH, 1761.

LETTERS FROM GINGERAH COMMITTEE.

Came in a boat with two Letters from the Committee at Gingerah under the 4th instant.

The former informed us of their arrival there the day before soon after which the Moratta Fleet appeared to the Soard, and were then at an anchor a little distance off; That they had sent the Governours Letters to Ramajee Punt, with one from themselves, and by the answer they had received they expected soon to have a Conference with him, when we might be assured they would endeavour to execute our Orders regarding him. That the Sciddee went ashore accompanied by Major Gouin, in whose presence he gave Orders for our Colours being hoisted in the Forts, which would be done in case the Portugueze Fleet arrived, or Ramajee Punt did not comply with what expected of him, and for which Purpose, two Men of Train were stationed in each of the Forts to hoist them, on a signal being made from the NEPTUNE. That Major Gouin had got the Assignment delivered by us, executed by Sciddee Yaucood, the only one of Consequence in the Place. That they had observed at an Anchor close

in shore, a number of Moratta Gallivats, and that it was reported the Portugueze Fleet was as high as Fort Victoria whether they had sent a Pattamar Boat for Intelligence.

The latter was purposely to advise that by return of Pattamar Boat, they learnt the Portugueze Fleet was actually off of Fort Victoria and that they should hoist our Colours both at Gingerah and Consaw the next morning.

SUNDAY 8th MARCH, 1761.

SIGNED our Address to the Honble the Court of Directors in consign of the Advices received yesterday Afternoon from the Committee at Gingerah; Closed and delivered our Packet for the Agent and Council at Gombroon, and our sailing orders to the Commander of the Swallow.

Sailed the Swallow for Gombroon and Bussorah—

Came in a Boat with a Letter from the Committee at Gingerah dated the 6th instant, advising that they had the Day before hoisted the British Colours on Gingerah and Consaw and that they waited for our further orders. That Ramajee Punt having evaded their request, for a Conference on Board the Guardian, by giving them an invitation on Shore, they had sent Mr. Bate with another Letter, representing their readiness to meet him, was it consistent with their Character as Mediators, which obliged them to give neither Party room for complaint, and once more desiring a Conference, to which he only verbally replied, that unless both Sciddees Ibrahim and Yaucood came hither and their Forts were garrissoned by our People he would not withdraw his Forces, which peremptory answer and receiving Advices that the Portuguese were off of Fort Victoria, occasioned their hoisting our Colours as before noticed, soon after which they sent another Letter to him, to withdraw, but instead of giving an answer, he sent Bugda Gungadar to confer with them, the result of which was his promising to prevail on Ramajee to retire, but which he said, was not absolutely in his Power, as Nannah had sent Ramajee Punt Bawa to command the army, who was entirely averse to it, without positive orders from Poonah, and they having not heard further from him, they intended repeating their desire for his retiring which they had little hopes of unless he was compelled to it, so they waited our Order without which they would not attempt to drive his Troops from the several small Redoubts,— which they had round the Fort, one of which was garrisoned by Portugueze That the best Accounts they could get, their force consisted of 3000 Men, with the Remains of Portugueze Company of Infantry, who were all in a sickly weak condition. That their Fleet was at an Anchor just without Consaw Fort. That they had proposed to the Sciddee marching a Body of Men into the Forts, upon our Colours being hoisted, but as he declared it might give umbrage to his Subjects they had desisted from their Intentions, as while they remained there, no insult could be

offered to our Colours, That the Portugueze Fleet not having appeared, they concluded it was returned to Goa, on hearing of their arrival. That they had received our Letter by the Grab, but proposed detaining the Neptune, till they received an answer to this which on Account their Situation, they hoped we would approve.

Forwarded Express Boat.

Public Department Diary, 36, pp. 255-7.

No. 255

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 10th MARCH, 1761.

Gingerah Letters read and considered.

Also 3 Letters from the Committee at Gingerah, with the accompanying Papers, and taking into consideration whether we shall empower the Committee to oblige the Morattas to retire, without reach of the guns from Gingerah, and that Ramajee Punt Bawa alledges, he waits for Orders from Poonah, RESOLVED we direct the Committee to declare to him, in consideration of his having asked for time, that if he does not withdraw his Forces, by to-morrow Fortnight /when the President will dispatch a Letter to the Regency at Poonah/ we shall consider it as an insult to our Colours flying at Gingerah and Consaw, and the President is requested to desire the Regency at Poonah, that Orders may be immediately sent Ramajee through our Agent Mancojee, to be delivered Ramajee, by the Committee for withdrawing his Forces, declaring that we shall put the above Construction on their Refusal.—

Observing the Committee mentions that one of the Redoubts opposite to Gingerah Fort, is garrisoned by Portuguese sent from Goa notwithstanding our Colours are hoisted there, and deeming it inconsistent as are not at war with the Nation, Resolved we direct the Committee to send a proper Messanger to the Commending Officer, of the Portugueze, desiring to know who he is, and what are his intentions, of continuing in a hostile manner, within reach of Gingerah, where he must surely see Colours flying, and withall to acquaint him, that if he does not immediately after that notice withdraw his Men, they shall look upon him as an Enemy and treat him accordingly: That they then allow him a reasonable time and if he declines to withdraw, that they oblige him to it, making Ramajee previously sensible of this Our Resolution and should the Sciddee continue to object to admitting a proper number of our Troops into his Forts, the Committee must declare to him, we will not let our Colours remain there, without having a proper number of our People to take care of them.

Public Department Diary, 36, pp. 257-8.

No. 256

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 30th MARCH, 1761.

Letter from Gingerah Committee.

Since our last address dated the 23rd inst, we received your Commands, under dated 24th and 26th. This waits on you by the Bombay Grab, with a detail of all needful occurences since the dispatch of Ship Triton on which day in the evening the whole Moratta Forces withdrew by Land from before this place; when we proposed returning, but being pressed by the Sciddee not to leave him till his Government was a little settled, and his subjects convinced, that Rajapore was once again become a safe Asylum for them, /which he said they certainly would not if we immediately returned with the Fleet/ we resolved to comply with the request, to make him easy at that juncture, more especially as the Enemy's Fleet was then hovering about /continuing so to do till the 26th/ and have now the pleasure to acquaint Your Honour &c it has been attended with the desired Effect, many of them being returned already and acknowledged, again their allegiance to him with seeming satisfaction.

Public Department Diary, 36, p. 308.

No. 257

TRANSLATE of a Letter from Sciddie Ibrahim dated the 14th September & received the 15th do 1761.

After Compliments.

I reced your favour by a pattamar boat & observe all that you say therein concerning my Affairs, as also about my not sending a Man to you, or an Answer to your Honrs Letter tho' 14 days were already pass in the Interim but That you had taken trouble and agreeable to time settled my Affairs, & I am now to enjoy the Country in the same Manner as I was enjoying before I was besieged In this manner you have wrote to me but this Conference was already past between the pesvahs & the English Gentlemen at their withdrawing the Siege & they had agreed to the same as you did now, leaving all disputes to be decided on the pesvahs arrival to your pleasure, telling me that at present /meaning at the Time of withdrawing the Siege/ we shou'd carry on our Government without further molestation from the Morattas, & the same your Honr gave in writing to me the 18 Mohram /or 17 August last/ & now a Gentleman from punah having come to you, you took trouble to do the same over again, which I am greatly surprised at, because this Sort of Agreement was already done before It was proper that I should send a Man from me on receipt of your Letter; & suppose I had sent one, but the decision and the setting of Affairs was & is in your Hands & I am sure if you take upon

you, you can decide the Matters in the manner as you please, & I find now that tho' a Gentleman had been arriv'd from me before, yet there wou'd have been the same Conference of deciding the Affair as is past now.— To this day I have never shewn any disregard to your Word, & have sit quiet, & was in full hopes that you would settle all my Affairs, otherwise before these days I would have taken care of all the Country I had before under me, & settled the affairs by your favours, but you advised me not to do it, I know not what was your reason for it, You will say that I was satisfied before with what Country I had, which is true but they had always been molesting to me, & once plunder'd Conkrey & Rajapore a few Years Ago, & while I was demanding satisfaction for it they came again by the persuasions of bad people, & attacked me again these 3 Years /Tho' I thank God by your favours they were drove away/ to the great ruin of us & own people having plunder'd us of everything— The Country I was mending is also ruined; now to see the Country as before it will take 15 Years before I can see it in that manner in case if it is not invaded— They cut off all the Gardens Carry'd away about 60 Guns from Conkrey, as also all Manner of Effects belonging to the Sarkar for 15 Years So I know not what is to be done about it. They owe me my Share of about 18 Years produce of the Country, That have against their Fathers Word keep the Fort of Mutgar & there are several other demands but nevertheless you say I must be satisfied with what I have got & trust to God for more I do trust Him and Night & day pray Him for it, but I hope you will please to tell me as soon as possible how I shall be able to get it in future, It is 7 months past that the Siege was withdrawn and agreeable to your Advice I was sit quiet & now you say in this manner what I can do then in remaining satisfied. You know what you have supply'd and how greatly I am indebted to the Merchants How I shall be able to clear from said Debts & maintain the Garrison and other Expences. You know I have holded such a powerful friend as you are & am in full Hopes that you will do for me such things as I may be able to live in proper manner. All the Country round us is belonging to us and not them & under God I have no friend to take care of me but you and hope you will continue me in your Favour.

Public Department Diary, 37, pp. 608-9.

No. 258

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 18th SEPTEMBER, 1761.

THE PRESIDENT lays before the Board Translation of a Letter he has recd from the Sciddee as enter'd hereafter, in reply to which he

acquaints the Board he has wrote him, that if by applying to any other power he can do better for himself, he is at free Liberty to do so, which is approved, as it will in all probability alarm him & induce him to write in a more becoming manner, tho' shou'd he not Our Garrison must be withdrawn & the necessary measures used for his discharging his debt to our Honble Masters,—

Public Department Diary, 37, p. 597.

No. 259

TRANSLATE of a Letter from Sciddie Ibrahim dated the 16th & Received the 17th November, 1761.
After Compliments.

Your Kind Letter dated 12 Instant was received this Day, & perceive your Honour say I hurt the Morattas Inhabitants & Country, & which is a great discredit to you because your Colours are hoisted on the Forts & your People are in them, & therefore you have sent Orders for yr. People to come away with Colours; but whether I have hurt or not hurt any People in the Country, you do not believe me tho' I have several Times wrote you however it is about 1 Year ago since I had mett you; I myself & Scidie Yaucood are much desirous to see your Honour & clear us from your displeasure with truth, we therefore beg as a favour you will order a Vessel either I or Sciddie Yaucood Sabledar will immediately wait on you & then we ourselves the Colours, & the People &ca are yours & you may order as you think proper, we shall satisfy you in all respects in the manner you chuse & then follow whatever advice you give, but let once justify our Conduct for your satisfaction We beg you will order a Vessel here as soon as you can that we may satisfy you.

Captain Walsh came to me and told me that there is an order for him to bring all the Powder &ca to Bombay & that in three days more a Vessel wou'd come for that Purpose I therefore write this informing you that the Stores which your Men was pleased to favour me for my assistance is taken into Sarkar; the Amount of which we shall pay you & as I or Scidee Yaucood are ready to come to you, we hope you will please to let your People remain here & as I said in my Letter, either of us, will come to you to justifie our Conduct & then you may order as you think most proper we wou'd come in the Vessel now but is not proper we beg you will Comply with our request & hear what we have to say, I hope you will soon return the Pattamar Boat with an Answer.

Public Department Diary, 39, pp. 734-5.

No. 260

To

Sciddie Ibrahim of Gingerah

After Compliments

Within these few days I have recd three Letters from you

I shall not take the Trouble of answering every part of your Letters, but once more repeat that you are satisfied with receiving back the Country of Rajahpore according to our Agreement with Govind Sewram, it is very well, there are People gone down for that Service, you ought to sit quiet & not send your Men about the Morattas Country murdering and plundering their Subjects in the shamefull manner you have done, if you are not satisfied with that Agreement you ought to say so, but throughout all your Letters you never write plain which I understand.—

What you write about Bugwantrow I know nothing of, he complain'd of you, & I wrote you this was not a time to make more Enemys but you did not chuse to mind me. As to the Boat with Batty & Country Gauls brought here by your People, she lay a long time without any owners at last one appeared a Subject of the Morattas to him everything was delivered to the Utmost Almond, your People had no business to bring her here, knowing we had friendship with the Morattas, & agreeable to that friendship she was deliver'd to her Owner, who may keep Her at Mazagon or any where else upon the Island that he pleases.— The Morattas were certainly right in taking your Gallivat at Sea, as you was making War upon their Country as here.—

In your last Letter you desire leave that yourself or Sciddie Yaucood may come to Bombay, but this myself and the Council do not think any ways necessary, so neither of you must take that trouble, but you may send a trusty Man & we will hear what he says, tho' I do not see any occasion even for this, as you have nothing to do but to receive back the country of Rajahpore, & live quietly with all your Neighbours; if anybody keeps your just rights from you complain of him to his Masters for satisfaction, instead of which you murder and imprison the Poor Subjects who are innocent. What Capt. Walsh told you about the Stores is true we mean those Stores that were landed with our Men for their use on occasion & these must be brought away without fail, particularly all Shells for Mortars which we will not part with to anybody; The Stores we spar'd for the use of your Sarkar when you were in distress, you may keep, as we have put them to your Account.

We cannot Agree to let our Men and Colours remain with you any longer, as the World must think if we do that we countenance & approve of your violent unjust proceedings against the Morattas; You have hurt our Credit too much already & tho' I gave you several times warning what wou'd be the Consequence so you must permit the People to come away

with the Stores agreeable to the Orders we have sent the Officer & you will also assist them with Men & Boats that they may embark as soon as possible.

You say a great deal assuring me that we may order as we please & you are ready to follow our Advice but I am sorry to say there are words only that you have never yet follow'd my Advice & I have had a great deal of trouble with and with your Affairs to no Purpose.—

Cha Crommelin.

Public Department Diary, 39, pp. 735-6.

No. 261

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT made & enter'd into between the Honble Charles Crommelin Esqr president & Governour &ca Council of Bombay in the part of the Honble united English East India Company & Govind Sewram Punt Tatiah, in behalf of Madurao Balajee Son of Balajee Badjeerao Pandit Punt Pradan, for preserving the friendship subsisting between us & for adjusting the differences which have arose between the Government of Punah, & the Sciddie of Ginjerah.

4th THAT proper people shall be forthwith dispatched for restoring the whole Jurisdiction & Territories of Rajapore to the Sciddies of Ginjeerah in the same condition and manner as they remained before Invaded and attacked by Ramajee Punt; which country is not to be molested in future by any of the Moratta Officers or Subjects.

5th THAT all prisoners taken by the Morattas, or Sciddies, subjects of either Governments & now in their possession shall be sent to Bombay, within One Month from the signing of these Articles & mutually restored by the Governour to their Freedom, & all Hostilities between the Morattas & Sciddies shall cease from this Time.

Public Department Diary, 39, pp. 598-9.

No. 262

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 5th OCTOBER, 1762.

THE PRESIDENT acquaints the Board that Sciddee Ibrahim of Gingerah died a few days ago, and that he has received a very polite Letter from his Successor Sciddee Yaucood which he proposed answering, and sending him a Sirpaw as usual upon these occasions, which is APPROVED.—

Public Department Diary, 39, pp. 557-8.

No. 263

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 23rd NOVEMBER, 1762.

READ the Letter extracted from the Chief and Council at Surat, and taking into Consideration the Method of disposing of the Sciddies Gunpowder therein mentioned, IT IS RESOLVED TO order them to sell what part of it they may be able on the best Terms possible, and to send down the remainder to us to have the Saltpetre extracted, as Opportunitys may offer.—

Public Department Diary, 39, p. 675.

No. 264

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 20th JANUARY, 1767.

Sciddee agrees to deliver in Batty in part of his Debt.

The President acquaints the Board in consequence of his having applied to the Sciddee to discharge his Debt he has agreed to deliver /500/ five hundred Morahs of Batty in part thereof at such prices as Batty may bear here at the time of Importation a great part of which has already been received at 18, ¼ Morah and more is daily coming on.

Public Department Diary, 48, p. 68.

No. 265

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 20th OCTOBER, 1767.

The President lays before the Board a Letter from Sciddee Yaucood of Gingerah entered hereafter representing that the Morattas are daily collecting Forces in his neighbourhood with an intention to invest the place being encouraged thereto by Sciddee Abdul Rahim Caun, who is as he says the occasion of all his Troubles, He therefore requests we will order two Vessels to his Assistance, and bring Sciddee Abdul Rahim to Bombay, but as it does not appear to us that the place is in any immediate danger, and we can at a very short notice send Vessels to relief, IT IS AGREED for the present to defer taking any notice of his request, more especially as the Morattas having this object in view, their Attention may be directed from another Quarters.

Public Department Diary, 49, p. 569.

No. 266

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 27th OCTOBER, 1767.

The Sciddee repeats his requests for Assistance.

The President lays before the Board a letter from Sciddee Yaucood of Gingerah setting forth the Danger that place is exposed to from the attempts of Abdul Rahim Caun, who has already by Treachery got possession of Mut Gur and earnestly entreating the countenance of some vessels for the protection of Gingerah which being taken into consideration IT IS OBSERVED our HONBLE MASTERS have directed us to support this MAN when necessary and approved our affording him succours in the year 1761, and as it is more than probable the Morattas in case of Abdul Rahim being successful would soon get possession of the Place, which in our opinion should for many reasons be prevented. IT IS AGREED to send down the Success Ketch and Fox Gallivat to countenance his affairs, and as he will be always under apprehension while Abdul Rahim continues dissatisfied, we think the best expedient will be to endeavour to accomodate the differences between them, for which purpose RESOLVED that Mr. Brice Fletcher our Resident at Fort Victoria to take him on Board and instructed to exert his utmost address for bringing about an accomodation between Sciddee Yaucood and Sciddee Abdul Rahim by endeavouring to prevail on the former either to make such a monthly allowance to the Latter as will be sufficient to maintain him in a suitable manner or assign over to him such of the Villages or Grounds dependant on Gingerah as he may think proper, provided the Revenue accruing therefrom will be sufficient for the purpose, but should Mr. Fletcher find it impracticable to prevail on, Sciddee Yaucood to consent to this he must endeavour by any other Expedient in his power to bring about an accomodation between them and advise us of the Result. Some shott and Salt Petre which Yaucood writes for must be sent to him by the Success, and with the expence which may be incurred on the present occasion added to his account, the Ballance of which Mr. Fletcher must earnestly press him to discharge.

Public Department Diary, 49, p. 505.

No. 267

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 12th NOVEMBER, 1767.

It was dated the 10th instant acknowledging receipts of our commands of the 30th ultimo agreeable to which he had embarked on the Success Ketch the 5th and anchored at Gingerah the 7th Instant in the Evening and next morning sent Abdul Gunney with the Presidents Letters

to the two Sciddies that Abdul Rahim had expressed great concern at the perusal of his and had requested two days to consider its contents and to return an answer. Accordingly on the 9th Mr. Fletcher sent on shore to require him to send proper people to attend him, but instead of complying with this he requested that a person might be sent to him who understood English, to enable him to communicate what he had to say in writing which Mr. Fletcher consented to but to no purpose, for instead of a proper answer he next morning sent a person on Board the Success with no other authority to treat, but to request security for his Army consisting of about 3000 Men in case of an Accomodation taking place; Mr. Fletcher therefore next morning sent another Message desiring to know his ultimate Resolution and whether he would hearken to the salutary and friendly advice given him by the English to quit those Officers, whose unsatiable dispositions was the only means that prevented the wished for Accomodation, but that he continued Deaf to all entreaties and referred Mr. Fletcher to his Officers for an answer, who had all of them declared that their Interest depended on supporting their Masters pretensions: He advised us that since his entrance into the Harbour twenty five Moratta Gallivats had been cuizing off Consaw Fort, and that he had been credibly informed that Messages had been passed between Abdul Rahim and Vessajee Punt which had lead him to order the Fox Gallivat to anchor off that Fort, and enclosed copy of the Orders he gave the Master on that occasion which he expressed his hopes would meet our approbation.

Public Department Diary, 49, pp. 634-5.

No. 268

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 15th NOVEMBER, 1767.

Received pr Sepoy a Letter from Mr. Brice Fletcher dated on Board the Success Ketch at Gingerah the 13th instant acquainting us that since his last Address endeavours had not been wanting in pressing Sciddee Yaucood and Sciddee Abdul Rahim to come to an amicable Accomodation with each other but that the latter still obstinately persisted in rejecting his Advice, and from what he could learn had not only given up all thoughts of coming to Terms with Yaucood, but had in a publick manner bound himself to his Army not to give up his pretensions, and they had unanimously declared to support him in them. That he had ordered all the Inhabitants to retire with their Effects and had burnt the Hay upon the Hill where the Morattas in the late war with the Sciddees had erected a battery to play upon the Fort, but that he had neither money nor ammunition to perform anything of consequence unless joined by the Morattas whose Fleet increased and kept constantly in sight of Consaw Fort but that they had

not as yet been joined by their Grabs. He acquainted us that he had delivered to Sciddee Yaucood the Balls and Salt Petre we had consigned him, that he seemed very desirous of settling the dispute pointed out by the President, and had promised to deliver the Batty with as much more as could conviniently be spared after this Years Crop was gathered, but that he was apprehensive that Delays would be of prejudice to his Affairs, as he thought that Sciddee Rahim upon being assured that a Force would be used against him would grant free Liberty to his Army to plunder and ravage the Country, That since writing the above he had again in a Message to Abdul Rahim used the most pressing Entreaties to induce him to enter into the Measures proposed, but to as little purpose as his former Attempts to effect that end, And from the Disposition of his Army by whom he was implicitly ruled he expressed his Fears that nothing but an exertion of Force would reduce him to Reason, that he had retired with precipitation to Konhenny a situation that rendered a Cannonade impracticable either from our Fleet or Gingerah Harbour, and that his army then consisted of 3000 Men, he therefore requested we might take such measures as would effectually answer the Intent of his being sent there, and with due submission represented the sooner that was, so much the better it would be for the Service.

Public Department Diary, 49, pp. 642-3.

No. 269

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 17th NOVEMBER, 1767.

Gingerah—Situation of Affairs there remarked.

Likewise the Letter above extracted from Mr. Brice Fletcher at Gingerah whereby it appears Sciddee Abdul Rahim instead of listening to Terms of Accomodation has declared his Intentions of persisting in his pretensions to that Fort, which we cannot possibly permit of his getting possession of, and as in case of our not now effectually assisting Sciddee Yaucood, he will lose the present Crop of Batty, and thereby be deprived of the means of supporting himself or of discharging his Debt to our Honble masters while on the Contrary it will enable Abdul Rahim to maintain his Army, and oblige us in such case to keep a Force at Gingerah the whole Season; RESOLVED therefore that we immediately send down the Eagle and Tartar Snows and Swift Gallivat with a Reinforcement of Infantry to compleat the Detachment already there to one hundred Europeans, also three hundred Sepoys (300), and two Field pieces, not only to protect Yaucood in gathering in his Share of the Crop of Batty, but to enable Mr. Fletcher in conjunction with him, to pursue such means as may be judged most effectual to answer our Intentions of obliging Abdul

Rahim to relinquish his pretensions, either by accepting the offered Accomodation or compelling him to retire, the first method we wish could be effected, but if otherwise, we must, tho' reluctantly, have recourse to the last, which we cannot think the Morattas will have any cause to complain of, as they have actually stipulated by Treaty with us in the Year 1761, never to interfere in our Engagement with the Sciddee, and it has not yet been signified to us that they act either as principals or allies to either party in the present Disputes.

Public Department Diary, 49, pp. 644-5.

No. 270

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 19th NOVEMBER, 1767.

Letter from Gingerah.

Received pr Sepoy a Letter from Mr. Brice Fletcher dated at Gingerah the 14th Instant acquainting us that he had not yet been able to induce Sciddee Abdul Rahim to pay the least attention to what he represented to him, but that on the contrary he persevered in his former Intentions and thought his Army sufficient to support his pretensions; Altho' he had promised him upon his agreeing to the Terms proposed a genteel maintenance and to live at the presidency, which he had rather proposed to him as Sciddee Yaucood had expressed an uneasiness at his being provided for any where in his districts, lest he should raise fresh Disturbances therein. That the Day before Sciddee Rahim had sent the Sciad on Board, who had acquainted him that there appeared no prospect of an Accomodation because it had ever been a Rule with them to be guided by their Army whose Influence over him was so great, and they had gained such an Ascendancy as to govern him in the most Despotic manner, that the Sciad and Sciddee Iumbrool had pressed him to comply with our proposals; but to no purpose, nor did he see the least prospect of reducing him to Obedience or of ever regaining Mulgus Fort but by Force of Arms.

Public Department Diary, 49, pp. 652-3.

No. 271

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 23rd NOVEMBER, 1767.

Letter from Gingerah.

Came in the Antelope Galliwat with a Letter from Mr. Brice Fletcher Arms; that therefore he (Mr. Fletcher) was resolved in conjunction with dated the 21st Instant, acknowledging receipt of our Commands of the 18th by the Eagle, and advising us that notwithstanding every measure he could think of had been taken to bring Sciddee Abdul Rahim to Reason

and that altho' he had sent a Gentleman to acquaint him that notwithstanding the arrival of our Forces, peaceable measures were what we most desired that still he persisted with the most determined obstinacy to reject all Overtures for an Accomodation and had bid Defence to our Arms; that therefore he (Mr. Fletcher) was resolved in conjuction with Sciddee Yaucoods Forces to land and compel him to retire from Gingerah, in consequence of which Capt. John Hopkins would go on Shore with the Troops early on the Day after for that Service, and that therefore he would address us again very shortly.

Public Department Diary, 49, p. 664.

No. 272

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 24th NOVEMBER, 1767.

Received pr Express Boat a Letter from the same Gentleman dated the 22nd Instant acquainting us that agreeable to what he had advised us in his last address the troops had been disembarked that morning early, and had been supported in their landing by the Fleet and every other Assistance given that was required, but that however he was much concerned in acquainting us that the Reception that had met with on Shore made it requisite for the Safety of our Troops to retreat as fast as possible on Board again, for the particular Reasons referred us to the enclosed Letter from Captain Hopkins who had desired him to represent to us that he was in want of Ammunition for the Infantry, and a further supply of Shells for the Flowitzs; and as he had set forth that the keeping on Shore with the Forces now under his command was impracticable, and that therefore he would wait our Further Directions upon the Subject; and in a postscript acquainted us that Ensign Panton who now repaired hither would upon being called upon for that purpose acquaint us of the particulars of the above unfortunate Event.

Public Department Diary, 49, pp. 664-5.

No. 273

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 24th NOVEMBER, 1767.

Gingerah—Advices from thence giving an account of our Troops having been repulsed in landing considered.

Likewise the two Letters extracted immediately before this Consultation Mr. Brice Fletcher with that to him from Captain John Hopkins, giving the disagreeable account of his having been compelled to retreat on Board Ship with the Force under his Command; all which being considered, We are Unanimously of opinion it becomes absolutely neces-

sary immediately to send such a Force as we hope will effectually carry our Order into Execution RESOLVED therefore that the Detachment now in readiness for Persia and as many more men as the indispensible duty of the Garrison will admit of our sparing, considering the vicinity of Rajapore in case anything unforeseen should fall out here, be immediately sent thither with the necessary quantity of Ammunition and Stores, under Command of the Major, who with Mr. Brice Fletcher are to act jointly as a Committee for negociating Affairs there.

Public Department Diary, 49, p. 666.

No. 274

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 24th NOVEMBER, 1767.

Letter to Gingerah.

Signed a Letter to Mr. Fletcher purposely to advise him of our Resolution in the preceeding Consultation, and to direct him to suspend all further operation until the Arrival of the Intended Reinforcement.

Public Department Diary, 49, p. 687.

No. 275

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 28th NOVEMBER, 1767.

Gin.—Instructions to the Committee.

Signed our Instructions to Major Gouin and Mr. Brice Fletcher appointed a Committee for negociating affairs at Gingerah, also our Sailing Orders to the Commander of the Worcester.

THE FORMER acquainted them that the Repulse our Force had lately met with at Gingerah having rendered it necessary to send such a Reinforcement thither as would effectually answer our Intentions, we had therefore now embarked on our honble Masters Ship Worcester If the Success Snow as many men as the indispensible Duty of our Garrison would possibly admit of our parting with the necessary supplies of ammunition and Stores all under the Command of Major John Gouin with whom we had judged it proper to join Mr. Fletcher as a Committee for negociating Affairs at Gingerah; we reserved them to our Instructions to Mr. Fletcher on proceeding thither, and to our several Letters to him since for a full Explanation of our Wishes & Intentions, which they were carefully to attend to, and use the most effectual means in their power for carrying into Execution as speedily as possible, as the return of our Force to the Presidency was very essential to the Honble Company's Interest, that should they judge the presence of the Worcester Necessary we permitted of their detaining her until we sent a Ship to relieve her, but if

otherwise, we directed her to be immediately returned and acquainted them that Mr. George Horsley was ordered to act as their Secretary.

Public Department Diary, 49, pp. 687-8.

No. 276

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 5th DECEMBER, 1767.

Letter from Gingerah.

RECEIVED pr Express Boat a Letter from the Committee of Gingerah dated the 3rd Instant acquainting us that the Worcester and Success Transport with the Troops on board under the Command of the Major had arrived there the 30th ultimo, but as some delay had been occasioned by transhipping them from the Worcester to the smaller Vessels that they might be nearer the Shore, they had not been able to compleat their landing before that day, when about seven O'clock in the morning the Troops were disembarked according to a previous disposition at three different places at once. That the first Division upon the landing being galled by small Parties on the Hills some Tiles were ordered to dislodge them which they presently effected. That in the meantime the Enemy kept firing Grape Shot and throwing Rockets on the Front from a Fortified Hill, which was the chief object of the attack, but their Fire being ill directed little harm was done by it; and upon the appearance of the second Division under Captain Borje which had marched round upon the Rear and Flank upon the edge of the Hill, they retired with the utmost precipitation leaving their Guns and Ammunition behind them, and the third division under Captain Hopkins made itself master of the southern summit of the Hill, and secured them from any attempts from thence. That about ten O'clock everything was quiet again; and the Major fixed his Head Quarters as might best secure the advantage gained in the morning. They congratulated us on the occasion of their Success, which they informed us must have been purchased at a much dearer Rate than it was, had the Enemy been Judges of the Strength of their own Country, and had had the Resolution to make the best advantages of it. That their Loss was only one Sepoy killed and about seven or eight Europeans wounded; informed us that the Officers and men shewed much alacrity and readiness, and particularly recommended Captain Keating for his speedy and undefeatigable Execution of every Service that might conduce to the general Benefit, and that it was but doing Captain Hill justice to acquaint us he neglected nothing in his power to promote the good of the Service. They advised that they had a pretty large quantity of Batty at their Command standing in stacks, which they had desired

Sciddee Yaucood to send for, and when the Grain was secured a due attention should be paid to our Orders in regard to the quantity to be kept on the Honble Companys Account. That Sciddee Yaucood had endeavoured to persuade them that he had a large party among the Inhabitants of that District, though they could not give credit to what he had said on that subject, as his Intelligence was so very indifferent, that no certainty could be had of the real strength of the Enemy, of which it was most likely he would be exactly acquainted of had he any Friends in the Country to do it; the whole assistance he gave them was about 140 men, more than which he declared he could not spare out of the Fort, so that if we thought necessary to pursue the War, the weight of it must be wholly supported by our Troops; and informed us that the Major proposed remaining in his present Quarters till our Orders could be received to regulate his future Proceedings, that if we thought it proper for the Major to proceed to Mutgar he would immediately march hither, and made no doubt of making himself master of it, but when that was effected they were of opinion Sciddee Yaucood would still be at a Loss to preserve it, or any other Acquisitions our Troops might make for him.

Public Department Diary, 49, pp. 702-3.

No. 277

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 5th DECEMBER, 1767.

Letter to Gingerah.

SIGNED a letter to the above Gentlemen in which we owned receipt of their Letter of the 3rd Instant and sincerely congratulated them on the success they had met with, but expressed our Wishes that they had so far pursued the advantage to have taken possession of Mutggur Fort, which, had they had Recourse to our Letter of the 30th October to Mr. Fletcher to which they were restored in their Instructions, they would have observed were our Intentions, and therefore as they had represented it could be done with so much ease, they were to accomplish it, as soon after the Receipt of this as possible, and put it in possession of Sciddee Yaucood to whom they were directed to make suitable Remonstrances and endeavour to convince him of the necessity of exerting himself on this occasion, for as it would be out of our Power always to keep a Force to protect him, it behoved him to fall upon some means effectually to support himself after their Departure.

Public Department Diary, 49, pp. 763-4.

No. 278

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 13th DECEMBER, 1767.

Letter from Gingerah.

That from the Gingerah Committee was dated yesterday on Board the Success Ketch Commands of the 5th Instant, agreeable to which the Forces had proceeded against Mutgur but upon their approaching towards it the Killedar of the Fort had acquainted the Major that Sciddee Abdul Rahim had abandoned the Country and that he was ready to deliver up the Fort to him, which he accordingly did, and had been confirmed in the command of it That he had informed the Major that Sciddee Rahim had fled into the Moratta Country being restored to tranquility and the Killedar not having applied for any of our Troop, they had that morning been reimbarked on board the Vessels, and should return to the Presidency the 14th Instant. That during the Major's absence an application had been made to Mr. Fletcher by Vissajee Punt to know whether we would allow Sciddee Abdul Rahim a Pension provided he returned to Poonah, to which he had been answered that such a Proposal had been made by us before we had been at the Troríble Forces and that it now rested entirely with them (the Morattas) and as they had taken the negociation into their Hands, they proposed should Vissajee Punt make another application to refer them to the President. That Sciddee Yaucood had promised to deliver the 1000 Morahs of Batty we had instructed them to demand of him, and as the Rajapore and Bombay measures differed he would send it up hither by his own People who would see it measured here, where the price would be settled and that he had likewise given them assurances of clearing the remainder of his Debt to the Honble Company in Cash.

Public Department Diary, 49, pp. 733-4.

No. 279

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 13th DECEMBER, 1767.

Letter to Gingerah.

Signed a Letter to the Gingerah Committee to acknowledge receipt of their letter extracted above and to order them immediately to return the Tartar and Success Snows to the Presidency with the Force intended for Persia and any Stores which might be necessary to send thither, and that they themselves with the other Vessels and Troops were to continue at Gingerah until they had made all the Enquiry in their Power as to

Sciddee Yaucood's annual Revenue, the amount of his necessary Charges, what sum he might be supposed to have in ready money and the means by which he proposed clearing his Debts to our Honble Masters, which would be very considerably increased by the present Expedition and which we expressed our Wishes could be put in a course of payment before they left the place. They were likewise strenously enjoined to insist upon his delivering as much Batty as possible to bring up with them to the Presidency for as he had promised the Governor the quantity they mentioned long before any Force had been sent to his Assistance, we could not doubt but he would now be able to send a much larger Quantity as he had by that means secured the whole of the present Crop, and directed them notwithstanding what we had wrote them above, that should they have left Rajapore before they received this they were to proceed on to the Presidency.

Public Department Diary, 49, p. 734.

No. 280

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 15th DECEMBER, 1767.

Letter from Gingerah.

The former bore date the 13th Instant and acquainted us they had strongly urged Sciddee Yaucood to discharge the Ballance of his Account with the Honble Company and had prevailed upon him to pay them 17000 Rupees immediately which Sum now went consigned to us by this Ship That they had reminded the Sciddee upon taking leave of him of the readiness the English had always shewed to promote his Interests, and desired to know if any of the good Effects he had from our Troops were yet unaccomplished; to which he replied that everything had been performed by them that could have been expected, and expressed the greatest reliance on our Friendship; mentioned that three Botellas were loading with Batty to which the Success Ketch was directed to give Convoy after her return from Fort Victoria, where she had been dispatched to carry Mr. Fletcher back to his station, and enclosed two packets from Mr. Green at that place.

Letter from Fort Victoria.

The latter was dated the 10th instant and served purposely to enclose an Account of Salt Meat and other Provisions supplied the Gingerah Committee with his monthly Accounts for November, and to acquaint us that a further quantity of 9000 lbs meat was ready.

Public Department Diary, 49, pp. 735-6.

No. 281

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 22nd DECEMBER, 1767.

Letter from Fort Victoria.

CAME in the Success Ketch from Fort Victoria & Rajapore by whom received a letter from the Factors at the Former dated the 17th instant acquainting us that the above Vessel was then dispatched by them to Rajapore to convoy three Botellas left their to load with Batty, and that they had shipped on her 16 casks of Salt Meat which with 20 consigned the Committee.

Fox Gallivat, amounted to Rs. 1853-1-65, requested a supply of 20 Barrels of Gunpowder, as also some Medicines and informed us that they had certain intelligence of Sciddee Abdul Rahim being near Goregome with upward of 200 Men, and they had therefore withdrawn the Invalids from Hot Wells. They enclosed a letter from the Sciddee of Gingerah the Contents of which they had great Reason to believe, having been confirmed by Abdul Gunney at the same place, they therefore requested we would be pleased to take such Steps as might effectually remove Abdul Rahim from their Districts, as well as the Adjacent parts.

Public Department Diary, 49, p. 744.

No. 282

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 22nd DECEMBER, 1767.

Letter from the Sciddee to the President.

Read the letter above extracted from the Factors at Fort Victoria; and the Letter said to be enclosed, which is from Sciddee Yaucood to the President, in which it is observed that his delivering the whole quantity of Batty he promised, and clearing the remainder of his debt should be positively insisted on, and as we cannot always send vessels to his assistance, he must endeavour to satisfy Abdul Rahim in the best manner he can by making him a suitable allowance. The President will write him agreeable hereto.

Public Department Diary, 49, p. 745.

No. 283

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 23rd DECEMBER, 1767.

Letter from Sciddee Yaucood to the President.

Translate of a Letter from Sciddee Yaucood Caun Dated the 20th December 1767 and received the 22nd following.

After Compliments

Abdul Gunny who staid here for Batty with the Botellas now returns with them, and on which I have sent 549 ,, 2 ,,. Kylee Morahs, which

is nett four hundred thirty nine Morahs and two and a half parahs of Batty.

The news of this place is that after Major Gouin went from hence the Caun Iadah raised new disturbances in the Country, which I have already wrote your Honour under the 15th Instant. This is on purpose to acquaint your Honour that Caun Iadah, by the help of the Morattas as I hear is again entered into Fort Mutgar, therefore I have sent Abdul Gunney and Shaik Ally by whom your Honour will be informed of the particulars, hoping that you will contrive some method that I may again get possession of that Fort.

I have sent up the Batty in the Conveyances you desired and am sorry it lays not in my power to comply with the remainder of your Request but Your Honour is sensible the present Disturbances here have been the occasion of it; in short Your Honour Aught to have sent your Forces sooner against the Caun Iadah, and if you will put me in possession of Mutgar Fort I shall get the Batty, when I will deliver the remainder to Your Honour I hope your Honour will take this into Consideration and re-establish the country in tranquility, and please to send Abdul Gunny and Shaik Ally again to me.

A Separate piece of Paper.

I have sent Ranahander Christra to deliver the Batty, when he has done hope your Honour will dispatch him with the Receipt.

Public Department Diary, 49, p. 754.

No. 284

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 20th MAY, 1768.

A Treaty of Agreement entered into between Sciddee Yaucood & Abdul Rahim.

Read also a Treaty of Agreement entered into between Sciddee Yaucood of Gingerah and Sciddee Abdul Rahim under the Mediation of the President by their respective Agents here, and it being necessary, as well as requested by both Parties that a Gentleman should proceed to Rajapore, to have the same ratified and confirmed by the Principals, Ordered that Mr. David Carnegie proceed thither for that Purpose where upon the arrival he must take the necessary Steps to see that the several Articles are duly carried into Execution, and to use his best Endeavours to promote a sincere Reconertration taking place between them.

Public Department Diary, 50, p. 312.

No. 285

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 30th DECEMBER, 1772.

Gingerah—Abdul Rahim the Sciddee to have his Account Current sent him.

THE PRESIDENT acquainted the Board some time since that the Sciddee of Gingerah, Abdul Rahim sent here a Boat loaded with Batty on his hearing the great scarcity of Grain on the Island and at the same time wrote Him that provided some Boats were sent he would consign a further Quantity which he did and the whole which has been in consequence received from him into the Warehouse here is Morahs 184.19 amounting to Rs. 3645,, 2,, 34 which amount has been carried to the Credit of Sciddee's debt. The President now acquaints Us Sciddee Abdul Rahim was desired in Consequence of what he wrote him on the Subject that his Account Current may be sent him in order that he may discharge the Balance due to the Honble Company which the Accountant is ordered to draw out that the President may send it to him, & We are glad to observe that He seems to have so ready an inclination to discharge it.—

Adjourned

Geo. Skipp.
Secry.—

Wm. Hornby.
D. Draper.
N. Stackhouse.

Public Department Diary, 62A, p. 298.

No. 286

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 6th FEBRUARY, 1776.

Gingerah: Sciddee to be applied to Respecting his debt.

The President will write a suitable Letter to the Sciddee of Gingerah, agreeable to the Committee Recommendation, to put his Debt in a Course of Payment which we hope will have the Desired Effect.

Public Department Diary, 69, p. 47.

No. 287

BOMBAY CASTLE LETTER, DATED 5th JUNE, 1799.

Translation of a Letter from Azoob Khan Seedy of Muzafferabad to the Honble Jonathan Duncan dated 9th of Shaaban 1213 A. H. or 16 January 1799. Received the 18th following.

A. C.

I have been favoured with your reply P. Patimar, & have understood what you mention respecting the Vessels as we has its other Contents,

With regard to Bhicajee the Parsee's story in particular, I shall only observe, that my fleet was sent out, but took no Vessel bearing an English flag & pass. The two Cotton Botellas which you mention I captured towards the latter end of the Season together with a Khedary boat belonging to Seyed Gulab from the Pirates of Aoona, in lieu of the ransom Money which was due to me from that place for near eight years.— The Governor of Aoona now demands them from me as their owner, as you may perceive by his inclosed letter, forwarded through the hands of Sheikh Mehtab, my Vakeel I would wish to acquaint you, that the Governor of Aoona has from the beginning been my most inveterate enemy & that it was from mere Malice, he heatures invented these falsehoods & employed that Parsee to convey to your ear, my only surprise is you could believe what they told you. The two Bottellas in question, I must remark had not 100 Bales of Cotton on Board, Whereas one botella loaded with that number Exactly the Aoona pirate of at Rajpooree The other two botellas as your Honble Board knows, I have at Muzzafferabad, but they were captured by my fleet from the pirate after having been for 4 or 5 days in their possession & in which circumstances by a Treaty made between the two Sirkars in the time of Mr. Halsey, you can no longer make a demand for their restitution. The two boats of Bukhut Sing Raja of Bhavnaggur, which you also make mention of were taken during the period of hostilities with that Chieftain who now writes to me to have them restored One of them have done so for friendship sake to his Dewan Katih Mittoah, for which the owner has passed me a recept & carried her off.— The Cargoes of the two Aoona boats I have applied to my own use, in lieu of the Ransome Money: the boats themselves in continuation of the Mutual good Offices that have ever passed between us I resign all claim to at your request, With this arrangement the owner of one of them is satisfied, & Secrechund has given his receipt in full for her & taken her away. The other was offered to Homraj, but he would not accept her; the boat however is here ready for delivery This statement let me beg of your Honor to Consider fairly. With the blessing of God the friendship & good understanding, which has hitherto happily subsisted between the two Sirkars shall at no time .... meet with any impediment from me.

TRUE TRANSLATE

J. H. Lovett.

Secret and Poll Department Diary, 79, pp. 3851-3.

No. 288

BOMBAY CASTLE, 5th JUNE, 1799.

From Seedy Yakoot Khan of Zunjeera to his Vakeel Sheikh Mehtat residing at Bombay dated 9th of Ramazan 1213 or 15th of February Received above 17 Ditto 1799.

A. C.

On the 1st of Ramazan /7th Febry/ received yours of the last of Shaaban /6th of February/ informing Me of the Governour having sent for you, and laid before you the Complaint of Shunker Sheunwee Wiccajee Wulla Doongarsee Sunderjee Seevji and Tunsing Doongarsee inhabitants of Bombay stating the plunder of Pattamar called Eeswunty opposite the port of Scion— then on her return from Goa, together with a paper of Memorandums some other details. My surprise and astonishment were in no small degree excited on finding this Act attributed to me when His Honor is well Convinced that every power Around Makes no Scruple of Committing these atrocities by Sea or land while the Amity & good will that has ever subsisted between the two Sirkars, leaves me only to suppose that the common enemies of both, have regardless of truth or the investigation of Facts, cast this odious imputation on mine, and induced his Honor too readily to give ear to their malicious insinuation.—

On the receipt of your information I made every possible inquiry to ascertain the truth of it through the several posts of my principality, but particularly Nadganoo, & find it absolutely refuted by the fact, No traces of such a circumstance being discoverable, Indeed the supposition is wholly inadmissable for the inhabitants of all parts of my dominions are day & Night employed in Completing the fortifications of Behadar Shahy, Nor have the fishermen or Coolies one moments leisure to pursue their usual Occupations of Catching fish.— How is it possible therefore, that they can find time to go upon an expedition of piracy. The result of the Most minute Scrutiny both public & private declares it to be utterly without foundation.—

Should the smallest shade of suspicion fall upon any person Under my authority, of having perpetrated such an opprobious Act, He should expitiate his transgressions against the Honble Company at the Muzzle of a Gun, to serve as a public example, & to shew the strict bonds of Amity that connect us. But of this there is little need, as the Company have too deeply fixed the impression of terror upon all people to admit the probability of such an occurence.—

The Sea is no doubt infested with pirates to this Moment, and my enemies as certainly take advantage of it to Attach ignominy to my Island by laying their unfounded tates of Malignity before the Honble the Governor. I repeat it they are opprobiously false.—

In like manner, when Mr. Church sent a Man here by orders of the Honble Company to purchase bullocks, some evil disposed person made a complaint to His Honor, which on his sending another Man, and my Making the Most diligent inquiry was proved to be a vile and groundless fabrication.— On being Convinced of this he was perhaps so much my friend as to declare some portion of the truth, to which he had been an eye Witness.—

At that time orders were issued to my Victorious fleet to offer no Molestation to any Vessel bearing the Company's flag & pass, which it is impossible they could have ventured so unwarrantably to disobey. I have also Commanded them to guard the Coast from Bancoot to Bunder Boorly & peremptuously to seize & Carry to the Honble the Governor's every boat that should be found empty in illicit depredations.—

A Gallivat Called Narizch was sent from hence to Muzafferabad with a Grab belonging to the fleet, but in the Most of her Voyage the Commander was suddenly taken ill in Consequence of a Storm & put back, Another Commander was sent on board of her, and she was proceeding on her intended trip, When she was unjustly detained and Carried into Bombay by a Vessel belonging to that port, As there is difference existing between the two Sirkars, this event is of little consequence, but you must give a detail of these particulars to the Honble the Governor, that she may be suffered, for the Grab is probably waiting for her appearance; and his Honors benevolence is equal to his Wisdom.—

In regard to what you write about Murad Khans Grab though he is an inhabitant of Ghogah, and Bukht Singh, the Rajah of Bhownagar, has plundered some Villages of Muzzaferabad to the amount of 50 or 60 thousand Rupees and though her detention is strictly proper and what Bukht Singh could not prevent were he to write for her again, as often as he has done already Yet, as it is such a particular object of His Honor to have her released, I have written to Muzzafferabad with strict injunctions to dismiss her without a Moments delay, of what value is a petty Grab His friendship is a much Clearer Consideration.—

The fleets both here and at Muzafferabad have likewise received fresh orders to abstain from offering Violence or Molestation to any Vessel bearing the Companys flag and pass and in order to afford them every relief and Assistance they may require. Some times since a Pattamar of Mr. Forbes put in here for protection from the pirates, upon which I gave here the Convoy of one of my fleet and dispatched here to the Southward On the same Account a pattamar of Mr. Athesons Hoogsons perhaps of Tellicherry with a packet belonging to the Sirkar just now put in here, and I afforded her the like protection to Bombay. This has been the established practice of this Sirkar, you have Accordingly my injunctions to His Honour the whole of the Statements Contained in this letter, and

procure the dispatch of the Gallivat to Muzafferabad after which you will write to me without delay. These are my particular orders.

TRUE TRANSLATE

J. H. Lovett.

Secret and Poll Department Diary, 79, pp. 3854-60.

No. 289

BOMBAY CASTLE, 5th JANUARY, 1799.

From Yakoot Seedy of Zunjeerah to the Honble Jonathan Duncan
Without date, received 21st May, 1799.

A. C.

Having received intimation from Sheikh Mehtab that your Honor is desirous of having Murad Grab released I summoned Seedy Ayoob the Serdar of Muzaferrabad to attend the presence, and to bring the said Vessel along with him, and have now ascertained the real state of the Case from himself.— Notwithstanding which, from a regard to that friendship, which I am so desirous of maintaining between us, I here consent to give up the said Grab to Murad Khan, and request, that he may bring his Sailors here himself to take Charge of her. This Honble Sir, or a matter of ten times the Value, I should regard as of little consequence indeed when weighed against the System of harmony that prevails between the two Sirkars Let me beg therefore, that without supposing the possibility of a disunion, you will constantly favour me with your agreeable Letters, and a free Communication of your Commands.

TRUE TRANSLATE

J. H. Lovett.

Secret and Poll Department Diary, 79, pp. 3861-2.

No. 290

A List of the Vessels belonging to the Seedies which have been detained at the Custom House in pursuance of the Honble the Governors orders.—

Gallivat Sumsur Tindal Alliby
Ditto Towkally Tindal Casim
Ditto Sumsur Tindal Abdul Rahmun
Ditto Sallamaly Tindal Shaik Hussan
Ditto Sacry Sattamaty Tindal Adom
Armed Boat Razhouse Tindal belonging to Sciddee

29th May 1799.

P. T. Maister
C. M.

Secret and Poll Department Diary, 79, pp. 3864-5.

No. 291

BOMBAY CASTLE, 5th JUNE, 1799.

Minutes of Conversation with Sheikh Mehtab the Seedy of Zunjeerahs Vakeel by order of the Honble the Governor.—

I informed Sheikh Mehtab on his demanding the release of the Seedys boats now under embargo, that the claim against his Master, as included in my Summary of the 31st Ultimo, amounts on a rough estimate to the sums of Rupees 25000 for which he would find securely, or engage to settle with the respective Claimants the Seedy's own Gallivats with those of his Subjects should obtain immediate release.—

His answer was that neither he nor his Colleague Seedy Jowher, who has been sent here expressly to terminate this dispute was vested with sufficient powers to bind their masters by any such agreement as I had mentioned but that If I pleased, he would write to his principal to know how far he might be inclined to accede to this proposal.—

I told him he would be right in doing so & might add by way of encouragement that it was the Honble the Governor's express intention in Case the Seedy would not of himself bring the several Claims against him to a fair and satisfactory Conclusion, no longer to think of indulging him by inabling him to save appearances, but instantly to look upon him as an open enemy & as such to debar him & his Subjects from all Communication with Bombay, Surat, or any of our other Ports & to seize his Vessels wherever they were Met with.—

The Sheikh finding it impossible to effect a general release of the boats in question without coming to some specific and satisfactory terms of Adjustment gave up the point, & then made a request that one of the Seedys own Boats, the Raj Huns might be permitted to return with Seedy Jowher who as he said was now dangerously ill. This request was complied with and the Custom Master advised Accordingly.—

Bombay 2nd June 1799. **J. H. Lowett.**

Secret and Poll Department Diary, 79, p. 3854.

No. 292*

Report H. C. No. 3 d/ 3d. January 1851.

TRANSLATION of a Petition from Cazee Ubdulla Araee and others to the Honble the Governor dated 23d of the month of Rubeeool Uvul 1224. Hijree corresponding with the 9th of May 1809.

It is now near a Century since our ancestors have resided with credit and respectability under the Shadow of the Honble Company's Protection without hearing of, or experiencing any act of tyranny or oppression on the contrary continuing in the enjoyment of peace and happiness they have always devoted their lives in offering up prayers for

your prosperity and success. In like manner some of our relatives who are very closely connected with us, have hitherto been able to live quiet and tranquil under the Jurisdiction of the Island of Jingera and its Inhabitants never experienced from any of its former rulers any molestation or violence. The present one however has recently adopted a line of conduct so outrageous and oppressive and marked with such an exercise of abused authority, that no language can convey any adequate idea of it.

As an instance of the severe sufferings and afflictions which our relations who are settled in that quarter, have experienced, we need only notice that not long ago, the Khan above alluded to suddenly sent several of his Peons to the Village of Seeodun and posted them around their houses, as if to invest them and now forcibly demands their daughters for himself and sons, which cannot but appear as an act of excessive oppression for we have never before contracted any connection with him and such is the degree of alarm and terror excited among our relatives whose houses have been besieged that they can neither enjoy sleep or food and have every prospect of annihilation before them.

Under these circumstances and having no one else whom we can apply to for relief and security against this most harsh and cruel treatment we are induced to hope that you will be pleased as an act of generosity towards those residing under your protection, and for the purpose of maintaining our character untainted, to call upon the Ruler of Jangira to desist from such oppression, for since the period when the British flag was displayed in this quarter of the Globe, the blessings of a just and liberal government may be considered to have dawned on all the most insignificant of its inhabitants, in extinction of arbitrary and despotic authority, so much so, that the welp (wolf) and lamb might repair to the same fountain; the existence therefore of so much violence and oppression in the neighbourhood of a place thus blessed is cruelly hard and having no other whose Kindness we can appeal to in the present case, we are in consequence induced humbly to solicit that you will be pleased to address a letter to the Khan aforesaid on the subject warning him to desist therefrom and that you will also call his Agent into your presence and direct him to advise his Master to discontinue so iniquitous a practice, confidently relying that by a compliance with this request you will thence save us from impending ignominy and disgrace and for which we shall never fail to offer up our prayers for your continued prosperity— What more can we say—

/Signed/ **Cazee Ubdoola Araee**
24 others

True Translation
/Signed/ **R. T. Goodwin**
Secretary and Translator in the Office of
Country Correspondence.

No. 293

Minute Reported H. C. No. 3. d/ 3d January 1851.
13th May 1809.

The parties appearing to be in great tribulation the Governor instructed Mr. Goodwin on the 10th Instant to send for the Scidees Wukeel and desire him to write to his Master to desist from such oppresive means of procuring family alliance, such as from his cast and color, the Petitioners who, are men of great respectability in theirs, are not unreasonably averse to.—

Ordered that a letter be prepared to be signed by the Governor to the same effect as per the following draft.

No. 294

Reported H. C. No. 3.
d/ 3d January 1851.

Governor of Bombay to the Seedee of Junjeera.

For these two days past my doors have been beset by a body of every respectable Moheumudans all of them more or less men of learning & several of them professors of the Law and who as living partly at Bombay & partly within your district have come forward to represent the hitherto unheard of oppression under which they labour in some of your Officers and people /for I cannot suppose you are yourself privy to it/ surrounding their & their connexion houses in the Village of Serodun, for the purpose of compelling them to dispose of their daughters against their will in marriage; which being an outrage equally repugnant to decency of manner and the dictates of religion; I can be prompted by a regard for your good name and the honour of your Government to lose no time in furnishing you with information well assured that upon the receipt of this letter you will take effectual measures to remove the cause of the present reproach, and no admit of no compulsory process in cases of such great delicacy where no influence should operate but that of the respectable head of the respectable families in the disposal of their children as your own religious doctrine so fully inculcates & puts you therefore to your own credit to put an immediate end to such flagrant abuses against the requisites of good murmurs and the general interest of every well ordered Society & to advise one by the return of the bearer of your having done so which will afford one more satisfaction than I am express, as you will probably have learnt from the verbal intimation which has by my instruction been given to your Wukeel for the same purpose Jonathan Duncan.

No. 295

TRANSLATION of a Letter from Seedee Yakoot Khan of Zunjeera to the Right Honble Sir Evan Nepean Bart Governor of Bombay Dated the 26th Shuval 1228 Hirjee or 22nd October 1813.

Whereas this the goodness of the all bountiful providence the period had arrived for gathering in the harvest, and as the grain of several villages belong to me, forms a depot for the supply of this island, and is annually imported, thro' the Bancoote River without the payment of duties; I am therefore induced by the intimate connection which has so long subsisted and the friendly relations maintained by your predecessors, to prefer the usual request that an order may be issued to the Resident, at Bancoote to allow the rice, naglee, and other grains to pass without let, on account of Customs, agreeable to established Custom, and deliver the same to my Agent Shaikh Mehtab, in order that vessels may be dispatched, and the grain which is intended as a stock, may be conveyed to the different posts within my jurisdiction.

I beg also to express a hope that I shall continue at all times to experience from you the same cordial attentions and friendly regards that distinguished the conduct of former Government and that you will afford me the pleasure of your kind correspondence and commands, without the least hesitation, and thereby partly supply the place of a personal Interview.

A True translation.

R. T. Goodwin.
Secretary & Translator
in the Office of Country Correspondence.

Selected Compilations, 64, Zujeera.

No. 296

To

The Secretary and Translator in the Office of Country Correspondence.
Poll Dept.

Sir,

I convey the instructions of the Right Honble the Governor in Council, that you draft a reply to the letter received from Seedee Yakoot Khan of Zinjeera dated the 22d Ultimo acquainting him in Civil terms that in consequence of the inconvenience which has been experienced from the repeated applications from persons of rank and distinction for a remission of the accustomed duties of Government it has been found necessary

to pass a resolution to grant no exemptions whatever of that kind in future and that Government is obliged to refuse him the indulgence he has solicited of being allowed to import grain thro' the Bancoote River without the payment of duties.

B. C. I have the honor to be &ca

24th Nov. 1813. Sigd/ F. Warden
Chief Secretary.

No. 297

COPY of a Letter from the Right Honble Sir Evan Nepean Bart Governor of Bombay to the Seedee of Zujeera, Dated the 20th December, 1813.

A. C.

I have the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt of your letter dated the 26th Shuval, requesting that Instructions may be issued to the Resident at Fort Victoria, to allow the usual quantity of Grain intended for the consumption of your Island to pass thro' the Bancoote River without let, on account of Customs &ca.

In consideration of the heavy loss which the Honble Company has been found to sustain by exemptions of this description, I have been forced to the necessity of coming to a determination to discontinue them in future, as on an examination I found that a dimunition of the Revenues had been occasioned by such exemptions to an amount of no less than several thousands of Rupees, per annum under an impression that I could not consistently with a due attention to the Interest of my honourable employers make such sacrifices without securing to them some equivalent.

A similar application has recently been made to me by your neighbour at Colaba, to which the same reply as that I have now the honor of communicating to you, has been given, and as it must be obvious to you, as well as to others, that the longer these indulgences are continued, the more difficulty must be found in withdrawing them, and that the rule rendered general cannot be construed by any one effected by it, as an individual disparagement, I have no doubt you will readily admit the propriety and the expediency of the measure, and that you may at the same time rest assured of the sincere desire of this Government to maintain the relations of amity with the State of Zujeera.

A true Copy

(Sd) S. Babington.
Secretary & Translator in
the Office of Country Correspondence.

Selected Compilations, 64, Zujeera.

No. 298

TRANSLATION of a letter from the Seedee of Zujeera to the Right Honble Sir Evan Nepean Bart the Governor of Bombay Dated the 2d Suffer 1229 Hijree or 25th January 1814.

I had the pleasure of receiving at an auspicious moment, your very kind and obliging letter in reply to my address recommending me not to feel hurt at, or to take amiss the withdrawal of the privilege of the exemption from duties, which had occasioned great loss to the Honble Company and adding that you had considered it incumbent upon you, in view to that circumstance and in consequence of the Honble Company's receiving no equivalent, to discontinue such indulgences as incompatible with the Interests, and adducing the case of the Chieftain of Kolaba, all of which you have been pleased, in the fulness of your friendship and kind attentions to express and the glad tidings thus conveyed of your being in the enjoyment of good health have afforded me inexpressible satisfaction.

The communication of the withdrawal of the above exemption has however & surprised me a good deal as this Island, and the port of Bombay are identified and the prosperity, or the reverse, of either must equally affect the other. From the most remote period, going back even to the commencement of the Honble Company's authority, such a course of amicable and friendly connection has been closely observed between the two Governments. Your predecessors also having thoroughly examined this matter, with the eye of penetration in the scale of friendship, and having wisely weighed it in the balance of unanimity, agreed to and contracted these engagements, and the practice has been continued in conformity thereto, up to the present period; at the same time that I admit the correctness of which you have stated regarding the impression on your mind, as to the loss or otherwise thence accruing but neither the one, nor the other can result to either party, of the exemption of two hundred and fifty Candy of Grain, from the payment of the duties. That circumstance must be considered as a mark of attention and civilisation, highly honorable and creditable to both Governments; and which was as clear as noon day, must tend to consolidate of harmony and concordance the two Countries. These indulgences were as a cause of joy and triumph & given effect to accordingly. They cannot in fact tend to injuring either Government, even to the extent of a hair under these circumstances reason can never sanction or promote the interruption of friendly observances of such long standing, or the annihilation of such intimate engagements entered into by your predecessors, & especially as the Honble Company, in their wisdom and intelligence, have never held the ruler of Kolaba and others on the same footing, in point of rank and respectability, with this Government; but as you are every way distinguished for your wisdom,

and experience and are fully acquainted with the vicissitudes of power, I doubt not that you will gratify me, not only with your favorable answer, but with the usual order to the Resident at Bancoote.

For further particulars, I refer to Shaikh Mahtab my Vakeel, hoping that, following the example of your Predecessors, you will continue to extend your friendly regards to me, and afford me the pleasure of your correspondence and Commands.

A true translation.

R. T. Goodwin.
Secy & Translator in the Office
of Country Correspondence.

No. 299

To,

The Secretary and Translator in the Office of Country Correspondence.
Poll Department.

Sir,

With reference to the Translate of the letter from the Seedee of Zujeera dated the 28th January last, I convey the instructions of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council that you acquaint him that on an examination of the Custom House Books it appears that until within the last six years the average quantity of Grain passed by Bancoote free duties for the eight preceding years amounted to no more than thirty four Candies per annum and that however disposed the Government may be to preserve a friendly intercourse with the Seedee it cannot consistently with its public duty admit of Exportations of this description through the territories of the Honble Company without payment of the established duties, that these calls have recently become so frequent from the neighbouring States and such concessions have been required that the Governor in Council has been reduced to the necessity of abolishing the system altogether and could not renew it in the instance of the present application without giving umbrage to other states.—

B. C. I have the honor to be &ca

7th March 1814. (Signed) **F. Warden**
Chief Secretary.

No. 300

COPY of a letter the Right Honble Sir Evan Nepean Bart Governor of Bombay to the Seedee of Zujeera—Dated the 13th March, 1814.

A. C.

Since I had the pleasure of addressing you under date the 28th of December last, I have been favored with your letter of the 2d of Suffer,

renewing your former application regarding the exemption of your Grain, passing thro' thè Bancoote river, from the payment of duties.

The explanation which I entered into in the letter to which I have above alluded have put you in possession of the grounds, on which the determination of this Government had been formed, and I regret that I do not feel myself justified in proposing to my Colleagues a revival of the exemption, as it appears that, until within the last Six years, the average quantity of Grain passed by Bancoote free of duties, for the Eight preceding years, amounted to no more than thirty four Candies per annum, whereas your present object is to obtain on extention of that indulgence, to two hundred and fifty.—

I shall always consider it a necessary part of the duties of my office to cultivate a friendly intercourse with you and the other Native Princes on the Coast; but calls of the same description have recently become so frequent, and such concessions have been required that it has been deemed necessary to abolish the System altogether, and you cannot be insensible that any deviation from that resolution in your favor could not fail to give umbrage to other States, and establish a precedent which I am anxious to avoid. I trust therefore that you will, on a reconsideration of the subject, be induced to wave the request, particularly as I cannot for the reasons I have already stated, encouraged any expectation of a compliance with it.—

A true Copy

S. Babington.

Secy & Translator in the Office
of Country Correspondence.

Selected Compilations, 64, Zujeera.

No. 301

1814.

Consultat 13.

Country Powers

Zujeera

Letter to the Seedee Informing that his Grain cannot be permitted to pass free of duties.—

Dated 13th March 1814.

Selected Compilations, 64, Zujeera.

No. 302

THE RIGHT HONBLE SIR EVAN NEPEAN BART

President and Governor of Bombay.

The humble Petition of Sheikh Mehtaub Vakeel to Seedee Yakoot Khan Most Respectfully Sheweth

That your Petitioner, in conformity to the direction of the Seedee beg leave to state, for your Consideration that, a long time ago, that the grain for the Consumption of the Fort of Zujeera, is allowed free by your Government to Pass, thro the Bancoote River, but once, two or three years, previously to his Death the late Governor Duncan sent for your Petitioner to ascertain from him the extent of the annual Grain, passing duty free thro Bancoote, Your Petitioner informed him on that occasion that, in the event of the regular raw, in which year, Produce as far 250 Candies of Grain, and the inferior one from 200 to 225 Candies, but out of which, the Sepoys of that Government were supplying them with Grain, on account of their wages, the remaining Grain of about 135 to 140 Candies annually passing thro the Bancoote River, a reference however on this subject made by that Gentleman to Bancoote, and a Similar Statement was thence rendered by the Resident to him, when the late Mr. Duncan informed him that the quantity of Grain annually passing thro Bancoote, being a trifle and particularly in view to the long friendship and understanding existing between the two Governments, Granted the exemption, in issuing annually usual orders upon the Resident at Bancoote and your honor was pleased to grant the similar indulgence last year; Under which Circumstances your Petitioner most respectfully request that your Honor will be graciously pleased in Consideration of the amicable relations of friendship that subsists between the two Governments to Continue the indulgence which hitherto remained in force from a long time in granting him usual order to the Resident at Bancoote allowing the grain to pass free of duties, and besides your Petitioner however learnt that the same indulgences have been allowed by your Honor in favor of the other Neighbourhood Chieftains, your Petitioner therefore is in hopes that his Application with your Favourable Consideration as the administration of Seedee Yakoot Khan has hitherto experiences every kindness from your Honors Government an act will redound to your Credit.—

And your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray.

Bombay
10th May 1814.

Sheikh Mehtaub
Vakeel to the Seedee of Zujeera.

Selected Compilations, 64, Zujeera.

No. 303

TRANSLATION of a letter from Seedee Yakoot Khan of Zugeera, to the Right Honble Sir Evan Nepean Bart Governor of Bombay, Dated the 9th of Suffer 1232 of the Hijree or 29th December, 1816. A. C.

During the time that Ballajee Bajeerow was Paishwa at Poonah and Mr. Bourchier occupied the Government chair of Bombay, the village of Bancoote was in the possession of the Paishwa, and at that time the Revenue batty of this Island used to be imported by Sea, thro' Bancoote without the payment of duties, but when Bancoote passed from the hands of the Paishwa, into the possession of the Company; Governor Bourchier after ascertaining the rights of both parties, determined to conform to what had been usual and his Successors Mr. Crommelin, Mr. Hodges, Mr. Hornby, Mr. Boddam and up to the time of Mr. Duncan and Mr. Brown, the same rule was adhered to Your Excellency also, following the practice of your predecessors, issued an order to the Resident at Bancoote to pass the said Grain; thereby confirming the friendly relations which have so long subsisted between the two Governments, but Your Excellency lately intimated that in consequence of the withdrawal of this exemption from the Chieftain of Colaba, you could not continue it to me. It has however recently come to my Knowledge, that this Chieftain has obtained your acquiescence in this respect, I therefore hope that you will kindly regard me as an old ally, and favor me with an order to my Resident of Bancoote for passing the Grain that it may be imported thro' the Bancoote river free of duties, since not one of your predecessors refused to give effect to a custom of such longstanding, and if your Excellency will also kindly confirm to it I shall deem myself extremely favored.

I request that you will continue to honor me with your kind correspondence, and commands on all suitable occasions in this quarter.—

A true translation

R. T. Goodwin.

Selected Compilations, 64, Zujeera.

No. 304

Consultation 5.

Acquaint him that the former application was fully considered and that any concession to him of the Honble Company's decisions does not appear to us to be advisable, nor ought such a sacrifice to be desired from any independt state of another, and that some adequate return ....

M. N.

Selected Compilations, 64, Zujeera.

No. 305

TRANSLATION of a letter from Seedee Yakoot Khan of Zujeera to Mr. Warden Chief Secretary to Government, Dated the 9th of Suffer 1232 of the Hijree or 29th December, 1816.

A. C.

As you are minutely informed upon all points, and are also well acquainted with the former Regulations, and records of the Honble Company, as well as with the close and intimate connection which has for so long a time, and without the semblance of difference, existed up to the present day, also that all the preceding Governors up to Mr. Duncan and Mr. Brown, annually issued orders, relative to the passing of the Revenue Grain of this Administration, to the Resident at Bancoote, without any one exception to the contrary, I therefore now trouble you with a request that you will regard me with your accustomed Kindness, and not only communicate in a suitable way to the Right Honble the Governor, the above circumstances and the particulars of the friendly relations of the two parties, but also in further elucidation of the matter the former practice, that, after his mind shall be satisfied, he may be induced to grant an order on the Resident at Bancoote to pass the Revenue batty of this Government thro' the Bancoote River to this place, without the exaction of duties, and in such case you will confer a most particular obligations upon me, for altho' I have transmitted a letter to the Governor on the subject; yet, without your explanation and elucidation, it will not appear in a proper light—this matter therefore depends upon you.—

I hope you will give me your kind and good offices by satisfying His Excellency's mind on every point, and so befriend and assist me, that this business, may be accomplished thro' the merit of your strenous exertions & that it may be ascribed entirely to your kindness and friendly attentions.

I trust you will, at all times continue to afford me the pleasure of your Kind correspondence, & also with Your Commands, without the smallest hesitation on any suitable occasions in this quarter.

A true translation

R. T. Goodwin.

Selected Compilations, 64, Zujeera.

No. 306

TRANSLATION of a letter from Seedee Yakoot Khan of Zujeera, to Mr. Goodwin Secretary and Translator in the office of Country Correspondence, Dated the 9th of Suffer of the Hijree or 29th December, 1816.

As a long time has elapsed since I have received a kind letter advising of your welfare, and as I feel at all times an interest in hearing of your

good health, during our separation, You will not only afford me the gratification of Your Kind correspondence, but also your commands without hesitation, as being half equal to a meeting.

It is now nearly two years since His Excellency the Governor, in consequence of his refusing permission to pass the Grain of Kolaba Chieftain, declined also to exempt ...... any Revenue Grain which was yearly imported thro' the Bancoote River without the payment of duties but it has just come to my Knowledge, that this Chieftain has now obtained this permission, I therefore intrude upon your time, with a request that my affairs may have the benefit of your good offices—that you will satisfy the Governor's mind by proper and suitable explanation; and obtaining an order to the Resident at Bancoote for passing the Grain, deliver it to my Agent the respectable Shaikh Mehtab, in which case you will confer a very particular favor upon me.

A true translation

R. T. Goodwin.

Selected Compilations, 64, Zujeera.

No. 307

Copy of a letter from Mr. R. T. Goodwin Secretary and Translator in the office of Country Correspondence, to Seedee Yakoot Khan of Zujeera, Dated the 30th January, 1817.

A. C.

I have received and laid before the Right Honble the Governor in Council your letter dated the 9th of Suffer 1232 of the Hijree, requesting an order to the Resident at Bancoote to allow Your revenue batty to pass thro' that River free of duties.

The Sentiments of the Right Honble the Governor in Council regarding the indulgence you have solicited are so fully stated in his letter of the 20th of December 1813, that His Excellency considers it unnecessary to enter into any further explanations on your present application and has accordingly directed me to refer you to that letter, which was not written without the most mature consideration of all the circumstances of the case; in addition to which I may however be permitted to observe that the Governor in Council would not consider himself justified in making any such sacrifice of the Honble Company's Revenues without some adequate return, nor ought it to be desired from any Independent State, by another, unless accompanied by such equivalent.

A true Copy

R. T. Goodwin.

No. 308

EXTRACT para 15th from the Honble the Court of Directors No. 2 dated the 3rd February, 1847.

(17) Complaint made by one Bhio Rao Damoother that his brother Seetaram had been put to death by being blown from a Gun by order of the Chief of Jinjeera as it appeared that the deceased was a subject and in the service of the Khan of Jinjeera and was apprehended and put to death in his territory for an alleged treasonable offence. Government could not interfere.

Para 15th. The Khan of Jingeera having been always treated as completely independent in respect to his own subjects you could not interfere in this case.

No. 1642 of 1847

Political Department

To

J. S. Law Esquire

Collector and Magistrate of Tannah

Sir,

With reference to Mr. Secretary Townsend's letter No. 636 dated the 16th August 1845, regarding the proceedings of the Chief of Junjeera in putting a person named Seetaram to death I am directed by the Honble the Governor in Council to transmit to you an Extract para 15 from a dispatch from the Honble the Court of Directors dated the 3d February last on the subject.

I have the honor to be &ca

Bombay Castle
30th April 1847.

/Signed/ **A. Malet.**
Chief Secy.

Selected Compilations, 64, Zujeera.

No. 309

No. 1643 of 1847.

Political Dept.

To

E. C. Jones Esquire

Agent at Colaba.

Sir,

With reference to Mr. Davies report No. 279 dated the 30th December 1845 regarding the proceedings of the Chief of Junjeera in putting a person named Seetaram to death, I am directed by the Honble the Governor in Council to transmit to you an Extract para 15 from a despatch

from the Honble the Court of Directors dated the 3d February last on the subject.

Bombay Castle
30th April 1847.

I have the honor to be &ca

/Signed/ A. Malet.
Chief Secy.

Selected Compilations, 64, Zujeera.

No. 310

SUBSTANCE of a letter from Yacoot Khan Juzeerah Wala to the Honorable Mountstuart Elphinstone Governor of Bombay Dated 19th Ramzan or 3rd May, 1825.

A. C.

Your letter and Memorandum concerning the goods contained in the Patemaree Lukshmee Tudel, belonging to Balkrishna and Bomanjee, coming from the Malabar Coast and wrecked at Muhrood, having on board goods to the amount 3000 Rupees, and plundered by the inhabitants of Nadgaon Boorlee &ca and requesting that a restitution of the goods might be made, arrived on the 27th Shabar (17th April), and from the perusal of it I derived much satisfaction.

Previous to the receipt of your letter I had been favoured with communications on the subject from Mr. Morgarr the Company's Solicitors, and in consequence made many enquiries into the particulars of the case; at this time Eduljee was at Muhrood and having collected the goods scattered on the shore, and those which yet remained in the Patemar; after which he again returned accompanied by a Peon and your letter, I then collected all the persons supposed to be concerned in the plunder of the Patemar and delivered them over to Edulji desiring him to repossess himself of any of his goods which he might discover in their possession, which he consequently did, giving in return a discharge in full written in the Mahratta language and bearing his signature in Guzerattee, and thus the affair terminated.

The Coolies have made a representation to me stating that the only goods which they seized were 1225 Cocoa Nuts, as will appear from the accompanying Krar Nameh, from which the truth or falsehood of the statement will appear: You will therefore be pleased to take the affair into your consideration and to whatever decision you may come, by that will the people be guided. I trust that you will favour me with a continuation of your correspondence.—

W. Clerk.
Assist. Pn. Secy to Govt.

Poll Compilation, 216, 1825. pp. 70-2.

No. 311

EXTRACT of a letter from Yaucoot Khan to Mr. Simson Acting Persian Secretary to Government—Dated 29th Zilkad 1240 of the Hirjee or 16th July, 1825.—

Your letter in reply to mine written agreeably to the order of the Honorable the Governor, and requesting that further assistance might be afforded to Balcushnee, and Bomonjee for the recovery of their plundered property, has been duly received and afforded me much pleasure.—

Some time ago Eduljee Parsee arrived here with the Honorable the Governor's letter in consequence of which a Sirkar Sepoy was desired to attend on him, and whatever we discovered was restored to Eduljee, he giving in return a receipt in full.—

There was some altercation with the coolies of Nadgaon respecting the Cocoanuts which had been carried off; these Cocoanuts however are placed in deposit in the Sirkar's Muhal; and exclusive of these, they have taken away nothing; the Tundel however says, that some Dubbahs of Ghee, bags of Sesamum, and turmeric have been carried off; but this the Coolies utterly deny, saying that if a Ser of the above mentioned articles can be discovered in their possession they will then become convicted as the criminals; and in the meantime they are willing to take any oath that may be prescribed; and in attestation of the truth will even place their hands on the Cow.—

I some time ago transmitted the depositions of these Coolies to the Honorable the Governor but they have not been rightly understood however on receipt of your letter I immediately summoned the Coolies of the boat, and made a most minute examination; the result of which was that they persisted in their former declarations; positively affirming that they had plundered nothing but the Cocoanuts. I then threatened to send them to Bombay thinking by this means to intimidate them, and to extract from them a Confession but this plan failed and they all unanimously declared that they were ready to present themselves before the Honorable the Governor, only requesting a delay of one Month on account of the Cholera Morbus, to which I consented; and took their written obligations to that effect, so that by the blessing of the Almighty, after one Month they will make their appearance before the Honorable the Governor, when an investigation will be made according to the rules of Justice, and equitable decision be given. The Cocoanuts which are herein deposit, the owners may either sell or remove. I shall be obliged to you to informe the Honorable the Governor that I have made every search and investigation which lay in my power.—

Favour me with the continuation of your Correspondence;

W. Clerk.
Deputy Persian Secy to Govt.

Poll Compilation, 216, 1825. pp. 125-7.

No. 312

SUBSTANCE of a Letter from Seedy Yacoot Khan to William Henry Walthen Esqr Persian Secretary to Government dated the 11th of Suffur 1241 (24th September, 1825)

A. C.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a Letter from the Honble the Governor under date the 6th of Suffur 1241 (20th September 1825) requesting me to settle the claims of Balcristna Bomanjee on the Coollees.—

I accordingly caused 8 Coollees to be brought before me, but as some of them have died of Cholera I could examine those only who survived, they declared before me that they will readily take anything excepting a small quantity of Cocoanuts.—

Now I have dispatched them with this letter to wait upon you with the hope that this affair may be satisfactorily settled in at Bombay.—

W. H. Wathen.

Pn. Secy to Govt.

N. B. The parties whose property was plundered complain extremely of the conduct of the Khan who they say never called the parties before him nor enquired at all into the affair, they (say) that his Sire is generally reported to have received a share of the plundered property.—

The Seedee has sent a party of Coolies to Bombay notwithstanding he was told in the last communication from the Govt that such a step could be of no use—they plead ignorance of the whole matter and beg to be allowed to return to their houses.—

W. H. Wathen.

Poll Compilation, 1825, 216. p. 139.

No. 313

Consul 7th January No. 38

SUBSTANCE of a Letter from Yakoot Khan Chief of Juzeerah to the Right Honble the Governor; without date.

I have dispatched my Buksee and Vukeel Amjud Khan into your presence to speak on matters connected with the ancient huks which belonged to this Sirkar, from Severndroog. Often the abovementioned in the time of Mr. Elphinstone presented petitions upon this subject, but to this period no answer has been given. It is therefore hoped your Lordship will at length issue a favourable order upon this long advanced claim, as

it is not the custom of the Honble Company to interfere with old established privileges.

M. G. Robertson.
Acting Dy Pn Secy to Govt.

Political Department, 1832-3, 547, p. 77.

No. 314

Consul 7 January No. 39.
No. 27.

To
The Acting Dy. Persian Secretary.
Sir,

In reference to the letter from Yacoot Khan, Chief of Juzeera, to the R. H. G. soliciting an answer to former applications regarding some Huks alleged to be due to him from Severndroog, I am directed by the R. H. G. C. to request you will write in reply, that the matters in question are under B. C.

I have &c

5h Jany 1832.

CN.
(Charles Norris)

Political Department, 1832-3, 547, p. 78.

No. 315

Consul 23d January No. 396.

SUBSTANCE of a letter the Khan of Ginjera, to the Right Honble the Governor dated 9th Shaban (1st January) and received 6th January, 1833—

A. C.

In the first place, the object of writing this letter, is to express to your Lordship the great wish we entertain for an enterview, which is such as not to be expressed in writing:—And further, at the present time we have been gratified and delighted by hearing the good news of your Lordships return from your Tour in the Deccan by way of Goa to Bombay—and we beg to offer your Lordship our most sincere congratulations in an event which has made our heart replete with joy and happiness—

At the present time we have dispatched our Vukeel Mahomed Umjud Khan Bukshee to have the honor to wait upon your Lordship and to enquire after your health and welfare, the said Khaun will also make representations on our part respecting certain affairs—

We beg to request your Lordship to honor us constantly with your agreeable correspondence &ca &ca &ca

W. H. Wathen
Persian Secry to Govt

I beg to suggest that the customary Complimentary reply be ordered to be written to the Khaun, who may be told that his Vakeels' representations will receive every consideration—

W. H. W.
Persian Secry.

Political Department, 1832-3, 547, p. 79-80.

No. 316

Consul 23d January No. 397.
No. 162 of 1833

To
The Persian Secy

With reference to the translate of a letter from the Khaun of Ginjira dated the 1st Instant I am directed by the RHGC to request that you will return a suitable reply thereto informing the Khaun that his Vakeels representations will receive every consideration.

B. C. CN.
22 d. Jany 1833.

Political Department, 1832-3, 547, p. 81.

No. 317

TRANSLATION of a letter from Scidee Yakoot Khan of Zujeera, to the Right Honble Sir Evan Nepean Bart Governor of Bombay, Dated the 27th Mohurrum 1233 of the Hijree or 7th December, 1817.

A. C.

Your obliging and kind letter communicating the gratifying intelligence of the triumph gained by the Christian Heroes; of the defeat and discomfiture sustained by the unofficered Heathens; of the surrender of the City of Poona to the British Army; which in its victorious Career was pursuing the crafty enemy; and that the Paishwa .... & expressing, at the same time, your desire that I should abstain from.............offering every kind of annoyance, or molestation to the subjects of the Poona State; that I should extend my care and protection to the families of those brave men, who reside in His Highness' territories, adjoining to my possessions—upon which point the Honble Mr. Elphinstone had previously been pleased to address himself to me in the most friendly manner, as well as touching other matters; having been received at a most auspicious moment, it's glad tidings afforded me the highest degree of joy and delight, and the whole of its Contents, which illustrate the complete success of the Government, have been

understood; and I offer to the British Government, to Your Excellency, and the Members of Council, my warmest solicitations on an achievement so splendid, and a victory so glorious. May the Almighty in his goodness, and in the success of his bounty, enable you to cherish your friends and destroy your Enemies and there cannot be any doubt, but that the Paishwa will experience the fruit of his baseness.

A short time ago, and when all the usual channels of intercourse were closed, I received by a confidential person, a secret communication of a very friendly and gratifying nature, from the Honble Mr. Elphinstone on these two points, as well as one from the Resident at Bancoote to the same effect, and every necessary measure, for the security and protection of the connections of the British troops, was immediately taken. No person has the power even of frowning on them.—

It is now fourteen Years since the Reins of authority over this place came into my hands; and from that day to the present moment, I have never tolerated any kind of annoyance, or molestation, to any of my fellow creatures, altho' I have a just claim, to the extent of Rupees 42000 per Annum against the Paishwas, in virtue of a treaty, and of written engagements under our joint Seals, not one rea of which has been paid. If then merely in consideration to the alliance, which united the Paishwa and the Honble Company, I refrained at that time, from distressing his subjects, (mankind being the especial objects of God's goodness), it must be clear to the enlightened part of society, whether I should, or should not adhere to the same line of conduct, at the present moment. On two or three occasions I mentioned these pecuniary claims to Khorshedjee Moody at Poona; but as his valuable life was not spared, I trust my views will be now accomplished, under the favour and auspices of the Honble Company and the kindness and good offices of Your Excellency—Such is my sanguine expectation.

The agreeable intelligence of the Fort of Severndroog reached me on the 25th Mohrum, or 5th of December, and I beg to offer to your acceptance my warmest Congratulations on this occasion also. May the Almighty in his goodness and bounty enable you to cherish your friends, and destroy your Enemies ! ! !

I hope that you will extend to me your friendly regards and attentions; continuing also to afford me the gratification of your kind and gracious correspondence and to command my services, on all occasions without any reserve, which will in truth bring us, as it were half together.

True Translation

R. T. Goodwin.

Political Department, 1834, 547, pp. 106-10.

No. 318

Consul 21st May No. 1367

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of Government in the Territorial Department Revenue.—

Extract of a letter from the Collector of Tanna dated the 31st March, 1834.

Para 2nd. In reply /I beg to/ state that no illicit coining has been discovered in these Districts, but, from the report of a man sent expressly into the Territories of the Hubshee and Angria, it appears that the former has a Mint at work in the Fort of Junjeera, and the Rupees are said to be made by Dado Shete Reodundakur, it is said to have been at work a month or so; I beg to forward four Rupees said to have been Coined there, they have a mark on the side, and are exchanged according to the person's Account who was sent, at the rate of /107/ one hundred and seven for /100/ one hundred Chinchoree Rupees, it was further stated by one of the Hubshee's people that these Rupees were made for circulation in his territories and for his Expences.—

Resolution 14th April 1834. Ordered that Extract (Para 2nd) of the letter from the Collector of Tanna & dated the 31st Ultimo be transferred ...... for consideration in the Political Department in order that the nature of the existing relations between the Governments of the Honble Company and the Hubshee may be defined, as upon them will depend the right of this Government to prevent a coinage similar to that current in its territories being Carried on in those of Hubshee.

True Extract

L. R. Reid.
Secy to Govt.

Political Department, 1834, 547, pp. 104-5.

No. 319

Consul: 21st May No. 1368
No. 668 of 1834.

To,

The Agent for

I am directed by the R. H. G. C to request that you will forward to Government, with as little delay as possible, a copy of any treaty or agreement between the Peshwa & Scidee Yakoot Khan Chief of Zunjeera forthcoming from the Poona Dupthur; also copy of any subsequent treaty or agreement between the Scidee & the British Govt now extant.

B. C. CN.

10th May 1834.

Political Department, 1834, 547, p. 111.

No. 320

Consul: 27 May No. 1533.
No. 46 of 1834.
Political Department

Charles Norris Esquire,
Chief Secretary to Government,
Bombay.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 10th Instant (No. 668) requesting me to forward to Government, with as little delay as possible, a Copy of any Treaty or Agreement between the Paishwa and Seeddee Yacoob Khan of Zingeera from the Poona Dufter; also a Copy of any subsequent Treaty or agreement between the Chief and the British Government now extant.—

Having had the Records searched, I have the honour to send copies of eleven Treaties or agreements which were at various times entered into between the Paishwas and the Seedee of Zinzeera, but with respect to the other point of reference, I beg to state for the information of the Right Honble the Governor in Council that there is no such document on record here between the Chief and the British Government. It may be useful for me to mention /though I am not aware of the object of the present reference/ that I am told the Commissioner in the Deckan, some time about the month of January 1826 sent a Report to the Government, or the Honble the Governor upon some subject connected with the Chieftainship in question, and which you will, in all probability, be able to discover upon your Records.—

Poona Agent's Office
12th May 1834.

Sir,
Your Most Obedt. Servant
Agent

Political Department, 1834, 547, pp. 112-3.

No. 321

Consul 13 August No. 2318A.

Minute

These papers appear to me to go for to establish the independence of the Hubshee from the control of the Paishwas, and so as regards the internal management & his State he has always been considering, but it cannot be concerning that a Petty Chief like the Hubshee is so absolutely independant as not to be subject to the paramount Authority. Throughout India in all matters which concern the general interest. Such a matter is that now before the Board & I cannot think that the British Government

should hesitate in at once putting a stop to all Coinage in every State within its limits.

I do not know whether the Governor has yet reported that the Hubshee at any former period coined silver money. It he did not he considered Govt. would be strengthened supposing that the Hubshee is now for the first time assuming a right which he never before exercised. This should be ascertained.

I do not know that the agreement No. 10 brought the Hubshee more under the control of the Paishwa than he was previously, as notwithstanding the lapse of time this Treaty was hardly executed & subsequently in 1799/1800 the Paishwas, entering into an engagement with the Hubshee regarding the country of which he might have claimed possession under the former engagements.

July 20th 1834.

Political Department, 1834, 547, p. 183.

No. 322

Consul 17 June No. 1545.

To,

THE RIGHT HONORABLE SIR ROBERT GRANT
President and Governor in Council
&ca &ca &ca
BOMBAY

The Petition of Suddasew Wamon Vakeel of Nabob
Yacood Khan of Jungeerah.—

Respectfully Sheweth

That your Petitioner for the purpose of congratulating your Honor on your succession to the Government of Bombay has lately arrived herewith his attendants; seven of whom as is customary, brought their Swords and Accoutrements, which have been detained on board of the Vessel they came in, by the directions of the officers of the Sea Customs—

Your Petitioner therefore prays your Honor will be graciously pleased to issue instructions to the Custom Master to permit the said accoutrements to your Petitioner to be landed for the use of your Petitioner

And as in duty bound shall ever pray.—

Bombay
29th May 1835.

Sadasew Wamon

Vakeel of Nabob Yaucood Khan.—

Political Department, 1835, 547, pp. 82-3.

No. 323

Consul 17 June No. 1546
No. 708 of 1835.

To

Suddasew Wamon

Vakeel of Nawaub Yacoot Khan of Junjeerah

In reply to your petition of the 29th May, I am directed by the RHGC to signify to you that it is against the Police Rules of this place to allow of armed persons entering the Island.—

BC CN.

12th June 1835.

Political Department, 1835, p. 83. (547)

No. 324

Consul 14th August 1835 No. 2077
Persian Department

SUBSTANCE of a letter from Scidee Yakoot Khan the Chief of Junjeera, to the Right Honble the Governor Dated 24th Mohurrum (23rd May) and received 15th July 1835.

A. C.

I have deputed my confidential Vukeel Sadasew Wamon to Your presence to get some arrangement made regarding the dispute which took place some time ago in the Village of Moozafferabad (which belongs to me) between my people and those of the Nawaub of Joonaghur.—

The aforesaid Vukeel will make a representation on the subject which I request you will take into consideration and issue orders accordingly.

For the rest &ca &ca

H. Herbert
D S Secy Pn Department.

Political Department, 1835, 547, p. 84.

No. 325

Pol Consul 9 Septr No. 2355A
Persian Department

TRANSLATE of a Memorandum presented to the Honble Mr. Sutherland by Sudashew Wamun the Vukeel of the Seedee of Junjeera dated 7th Rubeeoolawul /4th July, 1835/.—

It has hitherto been usual for the Nawaub of Joonaghur to pay a certain sum annually to Yakoot Khan of Jafferabad and wherever he has refused or tried to evade the payment of it the Government of Bombay on an application being made have always sent him an order to discharge the amount immediately—

This Year, however, the Nawaub has not only refused to pay the Customary tribute but has made three different attacks,—in one of which Khoosus Bakur Bhaee Sobhedar and several other persons were slain—upon our Villages and thereby caused Yakoot Khan (my Master) much loss and damage. It is therefore, requested that an order be sent to Rajcote, to cause such arrangements to be made, that a recurrence of the murders, or of the evasion to pay the usual sum may be prevented.—and also to cause a remuneration to be given for the murders, and dammage already committed.—

2d. A Sowar (Horseman) of the Company Sirkars' having ridden to Rajcot, informed the Saheb there (Mr. Willoughby?) that we would not give him "Mohsul" (any extra allowance for assisting in restoring peace) and consequently the Saheb sent for our (the Seedees) Vukeel, who informed him "that it was not customary for us to give any present, on such occasions, or for the Companys' servants to receive it" After this the "Sowar" returned to Jaffrabad where he made deligent enquiries as to all the particulars of the attack, and then again went to Porebunder where he arrived on the 30th Mohurrum last (29th May 1835) and informed the Saheb of what he had been able to learn at the same time showing him some persons who had been present at the fight and had accompanied him from Jaffrabad, when he left it the second time.—

In the above affair we have acted in no way contrary to the Regulation of Government and therefore request, that Government will, having taken into consideration the friendship which has always subsisted between our Government and the Honble Company, issue an order to the Saheb at Rajcote not to enforce the payment of the extra allowance which the "Sowars" demand. In conclusion I have merely to request that the above two para may be taken into consideration and orders issued accordingly.—

H. Herbert.
Dy Secy Pn Dept.

Political Department, 1835, 547, pp. 89-91.

No. 326

Consul 19 August 1835 No. 2102.

The Deputy Persian Secretary begs to state that the Seedee of Junzeeras' Vakeel, having heard that the Governor has arrived in Bombay is anxious to have an opportunity of presenting the usual Sirpao on the accession of a new Governor and therefore has requested that some day, may be fixed for that purpose.—

Bombay 13 August 1835.

H. Herbert.
Dy Secy Pn. Dept.

Political Department, 1835, 547, p. 87.

No. 327

, Consul 19 August 1835 No. 2103.
Resolution of Govt. in the Poll Depart
15th August 1835.

With reference to the Mem: from the Dy Secy. the Persian Departt, dated the 13th Instant, reporting the visit of the Seedee of Jungeera's Vakeel to pay a formal visit to the RH. the Govr. on an appointed day. Ordered that the Deputy Secretary be requested to inform the Vakeel that the Govr, intends so shortly to leave the Presidency for Poona, it will be very inconvenient to receive his visit on the present occasion; but that Sir Robert Grant hopes that at some future period an opportunity will offer for receiving him.

CN.

Bombay Castle
19th August 1835.

Political Department, 1835, 547, p. 88.

No. 328

Consul 9 January 1839 No. 126.
Persian Department
SUBSTANCE of a letter from Yakoot Khan, Chief of Junzeera, to the Persian Secretary, Dated 4th Rumzan (22nd November) and received 1st December, 1838.

A. C.

I have received your letters dated 9th Shaban (29th October) last refering me to the answer of the 7th April 1836, in the subject of Mosuls & imposed by the Political Agent in Katteeawar.—

With respect to this, I have to state, that from time immemorial, no officer of the British Government has hitherto imposed Mohsuls upon any State; but of late they are often sent without any consideration whatever; which is out of the mark of friendship.

I have issued instructions to my Officers to dispose of subjects of minor importance; but important and difficult questions cannot be decided without reference to me, and in such cases two months are required for the disposal in the rainy season; and one month in the fair season, as long as the sea is navigable.—

I have now furnished instructions to my Officers to dispose of a subject on a deliberate consideration as to the course of proceeding to be adopted.

I have to inform your Honor that agreeably to Your Honors requisition Gunnesh Rughoonath Dewan of Moozafferabad, has proceeded to Bombay,

who will make a full representation to your Honour relative to the subject connected with Katteeawar.—

Gratify me always with Your Correspondence.—

W. S. Boyd.
Acting Secy to Govt.

Political Department, 1838, Vol. 23/1019, pp. 164-5.

No. 329

Consul 9 January 1839 No. 33
Persian Department.

SUBSTANCE of a letter from Yakoot Khan, Chief of Junzeerah, to the Honble the Governor, Dated 10th Rumzan /28th November/ and received 3rd December 1838.

A. C.

I always commission piece goods from the Ghauts, and after every three or four Years from Surat, to the value of about 5000 Rupees.—

This Year my men are going to Surat to purchase wearing apparells required by me. I therefore beg that in consideration of the friendship between us, Your Honor will be good enough to grant a passport, exempting the articles from the payment of duties; for the exports from Surat are liable to double duty.—

W. S. Boyd.
Acting Secy to Govt.

Political Department, 1839, Vol. 23/1019, p. 168.

No. 330

Consul 9 January 1839 No. 35.

With reference to the translation of a letter from Yakoot Khan the Chief of Jungirah dated the 28th November last, soliciting a request exempting from duties certain articles commissioned by him from Surat.— Ordered that this Chief be in cautious terms informed that Government regrets being unable to comply with his request.—

J. W. W.

Political Department, 1839, Vol. 23/1019, p. 170.

No. 331

To,

R. K. Pringle Esqre
Acting Collector of Tannah.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that I yesterday received a present of a pair of Shawls from Mohumud Khan of Zunjeera. Under the Cir-

cumstances I could not, without giving offence, decline the present, & I have now to request your instructions as to how they are to be disposed of.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedt Servt,
J. M. Davies.

20th December 1838.

Political Department, Vol. 23/1019, p. 162.

No. 332

Consul 9 January 1839 No. 113
No. 43 of 1838
General Department

To,
The Secretary to Government
Bombay

Sir,

With reference to the Accompanying letter from Mr. Davies I have the honor to request the instructions of Government for the disposal of the present received by that Gentleman from the Khan of Junjeera

Tannah
Collr Office

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obedt Servt
Acting Collector.

Political Department, 1839, Vol. 23/1019, p. 161.

No. 333

Consul 9 January 1839 No. 114
No. 38 of 1839
Pol Dept.

To
The Acting Collector of Tannah

Sir,

I am directed by the H. G. C. to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 24th Ultimo No. 43, & to request that you will be pleased to cause the pair of Shawls presented to Mr. Davies by the Khan of Junjeera, to be sold by public auction, on account of the Honble Company reporting to Govt. the amount which may be realised therefrom—

J. W. W.

B Castle
8th January 1839.

Political Department, 1839, Vol. 23/1019, p. 163.

No. 334

Consul 9 January 1839 No. 128-129.
No. 43 of 1839.
Political Dept.

To,
The Political Agent in Katteewar,
Rajcote.

Sir,

I am directed by the Honble the Governor in Council to transmit to you, translation of a letter from Yakkot Khan, Chief of Jungeera dated the 22nd November last, soliciting the removal of certain Mohsuls imposed under your authority upon his State, and to request that you will be pleased to abstain in future from imposing Mohsuls on that Chief except in cases of manifest necessity, and not until milder measures have proved ineffectual in inducing him to attend to your requisition.

B Castle
8th January 1839. J. W. W.

No. 13.

Resolution of Govt. in the Poll. Department dated 8th January, 1839 —

With reference to the translation of a letter from Yakkot Khan Chicf of Jungeera dated the 22nd November last—Ordered that the Acting Secretary to Government in the Persian Department be requested to inform that Chief in courteous terms, that that Political Agent in Kateewar has been requested to abstain from imposing Moohsuls on his State, except in cases of manifest necessity, and not until milder measures have proved ineffectual in inducing his Officers to attend to the requisitions of the Political Agent.—

J. W. W.

Political Department, 1839, Vol. 23/1019, pp. 164-5.

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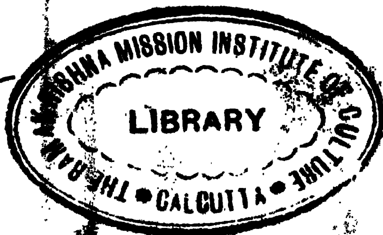
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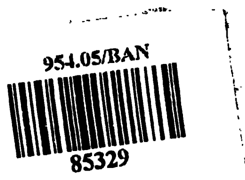
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